# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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# HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2009–2010

COMPRISING PERIOD
7 December 2009—16 December 2009

# HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society—Angela Eagle, MP

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Helen Goodman, MP
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Comptroller—The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP

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Baronesses in Waiting—The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton, The Baroness Thornton, The Baroness Crawley

§ *Members of the Government with responsibilities in more than one area*

* *Regional Ministers (in addition to other ministerial responsibilities)*

*Full list:*

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The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Brown, MP (Minister for the North East)
Barbara Follett, MP (Minister for the East of England)
Phil Hope, MP (Minister for the East Midlands)
The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP (Minister for London)
The Rt. Hon. Jim Knight, MP (Minister for the South West)
Jonathan Shaw, MP (Minister for the South East)
The Rt. Hon. Rosie Winterton, MP (Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber)
Phil Woolas, MP (Minister for the North West)

Second Church Estates Commissioner, Representing Church Commissioners—Sir Stuart Bell, MP

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Secretary of the Commission—Dorian Gerhold

Assistant Secretary—Robert Cope

Administration Estimate Audit Committee

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Secretary of the Audit Committee—Hannah White, PhD

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Speaker's Secretary—Angus Sinclair

Speaker's Counsel—Michael Carpenter

Speaker's Chaplain—Rev. Canon Robert Wright

Medical Adviser to the Speaker—Dr. Ron Zeegen, OBE, FRCP, MRCS, DObst, RCOG

Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards—John Lyon, CB

Parliamentary Security Co-ordinator—Peter Mason

*7 December 2009*

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 7 December 2009*

## TREASURY

### Asset Protection Scheme/Asset Protection Agency

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling):** In my statement to the House, 30 November, I said that I would provide Parliament with full details of the operation of the Asset Protection Scheme by 7 December. I am today placing copies of the legal agreements that have been signed with the Royal Bank of Scotland in the Libraries of both Houses, with redactions only in so far as they are necessary to protect commercial interests. Copies of these agreements will also be placed on HM Treasury's website.

I am placing information on the assets covered by the scheme, drawn from HM Treasury due diligence, into the Libraries of both Houses. This information will also be placed on HM Treasury's website.

In addition, I am today announcing the launch of the Asset Protection Agency (APA), an Executive Agency of HM Treasury. This follows the announcement on 25 September 2009 regarding the appointment of Stephan Wilcke as Chief Executive Officer of the APA.

The APA's role will be to manage the Asset Protection Scheme on behalf of HM Treasury, ensuring compliance with the scheme rules by the participating financial institution.

The overarching objectives of the APA are to run the scheme effectively and to ensure the participant maximises the economic value of the protected assets. Performance targets will be based on provision of timely information, identification of risks, and delivery of remedial action.

The CEO reports to Treasury Ministers and will provide them with any information needed in the course of parliamentary business. The APA will prepare and publish an annual report and accounts each year which will be laid before Parliament.

Treasury Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the work of the APA.

Further information on the role of the APA and relationship with HM Treasury is set out in the APA framework document, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The document is also accessible via the HM Treasury website: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

### "Putting the Frontline First"

**The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Liam Byrne):** Today I am publishing a command paper entitled "Putting the Frontline First". The document is an action plan for delivering better public services for lower cost. The plan has three central actions: driving up public service standards to strengthen the role of citizens and civic society, providing new freedoms for frontline services by recasting the relationship between the centre and the front line, and streamlining the centre of Government for sharper delivery.

Copies of the document have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Cluster Munitions Production (Financing)

**The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant):** In December 2008, the UK was among the first signatories to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. It is recognised as one of the most significant disarmament treaties of recent years, prohibiting the use, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions.

To enable the UK to proceed with ratification, the Government have introduced the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill in this Parliament. The Bill would legislate for the treaty's prohibitions, establishing criminal offences and penalties for a range of banned actions; notably the use, production or transfer of cluster munitions on UK territory or by UK nationals.

In response to the interest of civil society and parliamentarians, I would like to set out the Government's understanding of how the Bill's prohibitions apply to the financing of cluster munitions production. Under the current provisions of the Bill, which have been modelled upon the definitions and requirements of the convention, the direct financing of cluster munitions would be prohibited. The provision of funds directly contributing to the manufacture of these weapons would therefore become illegal.

The convention does not prohibit so-called indirect financing of cluster munitions. Indirect financing is therefore not within the scope of the Bill's provisions. As such, it would not become illegal to provide funds generally to companies that manufacture a range of goods, including cluster munitions.

However, aware of the humanitarian suffering caused by cluster munitions and the threat they pose to development in post-conflict areas, the Government are keen to see a complete end to cluster munitions. Due to the complex nature of indirect financing, there is a need for thorough consultation to consider the impact of any measures, and to ensure that we develop the most appropriate and effective measures to end indirect financing.

The Government intend to work with the financial sector, non-governmental organisations and other interested parties, to promote a voluntary code of conduct to prevent indirect financing, and if necessary would use their right to initiate legislation. We shall also review public investment guidelines to the same end.

### International War Crimes Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (Serbia)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** The International War Crimes Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Chief Prosecutor, Serge Brammertz, delivered his latest report on the ICTY completion strategy to the UN Security Council on 3 December. One of his key judgments was his very positive assessment of Serbia's co-operation with the ICTY. The Government warmly welcome this assessment.

The Government have long been among the strongest supporters of the ICTY, and of a clear policy of conditionality underpinning EU integration. It is important that all countries wishing to join the EU show their commitment to the rule of law and fully accept their responsibility to deal with the past, in particular by ensuring that all those indicted for the most serious of crimes face justice. EU member states have made it consistently clear that achieving and maintaining full co-operation with the ICTY is essential for progress towards EU membership.

We have had many discussions with the Serbian authorities about this over recent years. We have not been slow, when we thought they were not doing enough, to make our views known.

When the new Serbian Government took office last year, under President Tadic's leadership, we were encouraged by their public commitment to do everything necessary to conclude this process successfully. We have maintained close contact since then with those responsible for the investigations.

I have previously made clear to this House that our assessment of full co-operation would be based on committed and sustained activity from the Serbian Government, demonstrating 100 per cent. effort and political will in co-operating with ICTY. That co-operation should cover efforts in a wide range of areas including: tackling support networks; meeting requests for documents; allowing access to archives; ensuring protection of witnesses; as well as in locating and transferring the remaining indictees. The Government's assessment is that prosecutor Brammertz's report shows this to be the case.

We congratulate the Serbian authorities on this significant achievement. We are discussing with our EU partners how the EU should recognise this. We will remain in close touch with the authorities in Serbia to underline the importance of maintaining this sustained effort, including to track down and deliver the two remaining ICTY indictees, Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic.

## General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council

**The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant):** The General Affairs Council (GAC) and Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) have replaced the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) under the provisions of the Lisbon treaty, which came into force on 1 December 2009. The GAC and FAC will be held on 7 and 8 December in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

### GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

*Preparation of the 10 and 11 December European Council*

Ministers will discuss the presidency's draft agenda for the December European Council. We welcome the presidency's continued focus on the economic and financial situation. We expect the European Council to take stock of the economic climate. It will review the measures necessary to return the EU economy to sustainable growth, including through ensuring the development of co-ordinated exit strategies from the economic stimuli taken forward under the European economic recovery plan. In this context, the European Council will also begin discussions on the future of the Lisbon strategy for jobs and growth. We also expect it to reach agreement on the Commission's proposals for financial supervision and regulation. The European Council will also review the implementation of the EU sustainable development strategy and adopt the EU's new work programme (the "Stockholm programme") setting out priorities for EU co-operation in justice and home affairs from 2010 to 2014.

On external relations, we expect the December European Council to take stock of Iran's response to the offer of negotiations on their nuclear programme and set out a clear, appropriate way forward in line with the dual track strategy of engagement and pressure.

*Enlargement*

The General Affairs Council will take stock of progress on enlargement and the stabilisation and association process in the Western Balkans, informed by the Commission Communication of 14 October, which set out an enlargement strategy and progress reports for candidates and potential candidates. We believe the Commission Communication to be a fair and balanced assessment. We expect the Council to agree conclusions that reconfirm consensus support for enlargement and recognition that the accession process gives strong encouragement to political and economic reform in the enlargement countries and reinforces peace, democracy and stability in Europe. We also expect the Council to recognise that enlargement countries have been affected, to different degrees, by the global economic recession and reconfirm its commitment to provide support including through the instrument for pre-accession (IPA). We would support conclusions language emphasising that the rule of law, in particular the fight against corruption and organised crime, and the need to build professional civil services remain major challenges that the enlargement countries need to address at an early stage. We also support the Commission's view that bilateral disputes should not be allowed to hold up the accession process.

We expect the Council to review progress in the accession negotiations for Turkey and Croatia. We will support the Council's recognition of the key role Turkey plays in regional security, energy supply, and the promotion of dialogue between civilisations and recent initiatives including addressing the Kurdish issue. However, we will share the Council's disappointment that Turkey has not yet fulfilled its obligation to open its ports to trade with Cyprus under the additional protocol to the association agreement and agree that further efforts are needed to accelerate the pace of Turkey's accession negotiations.

We will support the Council in commending Croatia for progress made but stressing that further efforts are needed to meet accession criteria in order to be able to conclude negotiations in 2010. We will support the Council to reiterate that full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia remains essential in line with the negotiating framework. We also expect the Council to note that Iceland's application for EU membership is currently being assessed by the Commission. We expect the Council to make a decision on opening negotiations early in 2010 on the basis of the Commission's opinion.

### *EU Disaster Management*

Ministers will discuss the future of civil protection under the arrangements introduced by the Lisbon treaty. We expect the December European Council to focus on the possibilities afforded by both the solidarity clause and the civil protection article to enable improved disaster management in the EU. The European Council will adopt the Stockholm programme, which stresses the need for an integrated approach to disaster management including prevention, preparedness and response; and foresees further efforts to strengthen and improve the Community's civil protection instruments. We also expect the European Council to adopt conclusions on a Community framework for disaster prevention, which will set out priorities for efforts to reduce vulnerability to catastrophes and their consequences and for which the Government have expressed support.

The Government recognise the primary role of national responsibility in disaster management while acknowledging the importance of solidarity among member states when disasters overwhelm national capabilities.

### *Trio Programme of the Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies*

The next trio presidency of the EU will begin on 1 January 2010 with Spain, followed by Belgium and Hungary. Under the Lisbon treaty, they will look to build a stronger, more coherent EU that more effectively works for its citizens and addresses their concerns. Their focus will be on the reinforcement of the social agenda, with strong European leadership in key areas such as recovery from the financial and economic crisis, climate change and energy security.

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

### *Western Balkans*

We expect discussion to focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Ministers are likely to consider further the future of the EU's military presence (EUFOR Operation Althea) and may receive an update from the presidency on the ongoing EU/US initiative to unblock progress on reforms. The Government believe that EUFOR makes a vital contribution to stability and security in BiH and should therefore only be reconfigured when the time is right. The Government support the EU/US initiative and believe that the conditionality set by the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) must be met before the Office of the High Representative can close and we move to an EU-led presence in BiH.

Ministers may discuss progress in Serbia, following a report to the UN Security Council on 3 December by the Chief Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). If this report is sufficiently positive, Ministers may consider whether it is possible to implement Serbia's interim agreement. The Government support implementation of Serbia's interim agreement, on the basis of the significantly improved co-operation with ICTY that Serbia has already demonstrated.

We also expect Ministers to discuss progress by the Western Balkans countries towards eventual EU membership. The Government support the assessments made by the European Commission in its Communication of 14 October and believe that Council conclusions should reaffirm support for the European perspective of the Western Balkan countries. We believe that the countries of the region should make progress towards joining the EU on the basis of their progress in meeting the fair and rigorous conditions for membership. In particular, we support the Commission's recent recommendation for Macedonia to open accession negotiations and believe that conclusions should ensure that the country continues to move forward in the enlargement process. The Government also want to see conclusions that demonstrate the EU's ongoing commitment to Kosovo's economic and political development.

### *Iran*

Ministers will discuss recent developments and consider, in preparation for the December European Council, whether efforts to engage with Iran have shown any signs of progress. Ministers may also consider next steps in the context of the dual track policy, in order to persuade Iran to enter into meaningful negotiations on the nuclear issue. They will also focus on the human rights situation inside Iran.

### *Middle East Peace Process*

Ministers will discuss developments in the Middle East, including the Israeli announcement of a limited 10-month moratorium on settlement building in the West Bank. The presidency plans conclusions that are likely to reaffirm the EU's commitment to a two state solution and support of US efforts. The UK will be arguing for the EU to make clear its position on the importance of a two-state solution.

### *Burma*

Ministers may discuss the latest developments and consider the EU's next steps. The military Government have made no tangible progress towards meeting the long-standing demands of the international community, including the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners and the start of a genuine process of dialogue and national reconciliation. The prospect of elections in 2010 gives such discussion added urgency.

## HEALTH

### Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron):** The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council met on 30 November and 1 December in Brussels. The Health and Consumer Affairs part of the Council was taken on 1 December. I represented the UK.

At the meeting, the Council was unable to reach agreement on the application of patients' rights in the cross-border healthcare directive. This issue will be discussed further under the Spanish presidency.

Ministers received a progress report from the European Commission and the European Centre for Disease Control. There was also a discussion on lessons learnt from the EU level response to the H1N1 pandemic.

A Council recommendation on smoke-free environments and Council conclusions on alcohol and health, e-Health and innovative incentives for effective antibiotics were adopted. The presidency also provided an update on progress of the proposals in the pharmaceutical package.

### New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope):** Today I am publishing "New Horizons: a shared vision for mental health". Mental health care in England has been transformed since the launch in 1999 of the national service framework for mental health. Significant and sustained increases in investment, an expansion of the workforce and a shift from hospital care to treatment in the community mean that our services are now recognised and admired internationally. It is time now to build on those achievements.

New Horizons represents an innovative dual approach: continued improvement to mental health services in England, coupled with ambitious cross-Government action for promoting public mental health and well-being. It is the product of close collaboration between Government Departments and with a coalition of leading stakeholders from local government, the professions and the third sector. It has also been the subject of extensive public consultation.

The guiding values of New Horizons, endorsed by the consultation response, are equality and justice; helping people to fulfil their potential and control their lives; and valuing relationships. It has six key themes:

(i) preventing mental ill health and promoting good mental health;

(ii) intervening early;

(iii) tackling stigma;

(iv) strengthening transitions between mental health services;

(v) personalising care; and

(vi) achieving value for money.

Its publication marks the beginning of a process, not the end. New Horizons provides a platform for action across Government in the coming months and years. We are already putting this approach into action with the publication today of a suite of documents relating to the issue of mental health and employment. They are "Working our way to better mental health: a framework for action, alongside Work, Recovery and Inclusion" and "Realising ambitions: better employment support for people with a mental health condition". These are described more fully in the written ministerial statement made today by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

"New Horizons: a shared vision for mental health" has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

**The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle):** The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council was held on 30 November and 1 December 2009 in Brussels. I represented the United Kingdom on all employment and social policy items on 30 November, except for the intervention on gender equality: strengthening growth and employment, where the United Kingdom was represented by my right hon. Friend, the Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal and Minister for Women and Equality. Health business was taken on 1 December 2009.

The first discussion and main item of the agenda was the Council policy debate on recovering from the financial crisis and preparing for the post-2010 Lisbon strategy. The presidency stressed that work was the best way out of social exclusion and also promoted health and wealth. I intervened to note the domestic measures taken by the UK to tackle the crisis, including the focus on minimising youth unemployment and keeping people close to the labour market, extra staff and funding for Jobcentre Plus and help for lone parents. I also underlined the need to learn from the mistakes of previous recessions, when the early retirement or placing on disability benefits of workers created significant long-term employment issues.

The second policy debate of the meeting was on gender equality, strengthening growth and employment. The presidency stressed the importance of equality issues being fully considered both in short-term responses to the recession and as part of the longer-term post-Lisbon strategy. For the UK, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Women and Equality, stressed the importance of recognising skills of men and women alike in the workplace, and believed that gender should be at the heart of the work of the EU, not just in terms of growth and employment policy but across the board. The Minister called for more joint working by women Ministers in order to put forward the gender equality agenda and looked ahead to the EU playing a strong role in the creation of the UN's new 'Gender Entity'.

The Council adopted Council conclusions on: promoting Labour market inclusion—recovering from the crisis and preparing for the post-2010 Lisbon strategy; healthy and dignified ageing; gender equality—strengthening growth and employment; and on the follow-up of the implementation by the member states and the EU institutions of the Beijing platform of action. The Council similarly endorsed Employment Committee and Social Protection Committee Opinions on the post-2010 Lisbon agenda.

Political agreement was reached unanimously by the Council on the revised social partner framework agreement on parental leave, and the ILO's Work in Fishing Convention, after the Commission circulated a minute statement clarifying that member states do not need to ratify this convention.

After some debate, the Council achieved political agreement on the directive on equal treatment of the self-employed and the directive was adopted by qualified majority. Hungary, Germany and the UK abstained: Hungary because of the legal base, the UK because of concerns that some aspects of the directive were not in line with the general principle that member states should decide how best to provide social protection, and Germany on both counts. The directive will now return to the European Parliament with a view to achieving a Second Reading agreement.

Finally, the Council also adopted without comment a progress report on implementing equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation (the anti-discrimination directive).

Under other business, the presidency and the Czech delegation summarised several recent conferences and the Spanish delegation outlined the central themes of their presidency, noting that job creation and social cohesion would be among them.

There was no formal discussion over lunch.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Mental Health and Employment

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper):** Today, the Secretary of State for Health and I are announcing a number of publications on the subject of mental ill health and employment.

Mental ill health presents a major challenge to our society. As well as the devastating impact it can have on individuals and their families, mental ill health costs the economy between £30 billion and £40 billion through lost production, sick pay, NHS treatment and unemployment. It is now also the most common reason for claiming health-related benefits.

The Government are determined to support individuals and families and tackle these costs. Improving mental health at work and boosting the employment chances of people with mental health conditions are central to our approach. Taking part in well-managed work can help to develop people's mental health, resilience and well-being. We must ensure that more workplaces support their employees to do this and provide joined-up services to help people with mental health conditions to find and stay in employment.

Our first publication, "Working Our Way to Better Mental Health: a Framework for Action" is the first mental health and employment strategy for the whole of Great Britain. It sets out a practical approach to achieving the twin aims of increasing well-being at work for everyone and improving employment outcomes for people with mental health conditions. It has been developed with the assistance of a group of independent experts, including mental health specialists, senior academics and representatives from business and third sector organisations, chaired by Dame Carol Black, the National Director for Health and Work. The document was developed in partnership with the devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales.

We are also publishing today an independent review commissioned by DWP and led by Dr. Rachel Perkins of South-West London and St. George's Mental Health Trust. Her review, "Realising Ambitions: Better employment support for people with a mental health condition", describes how we can strengthen employment, health and wider state support to help people with mental conditions who are out of work.

Our third publication, "Work Recovery and Inclusion" is a cross-Government delivery plan for England setting out a high-level vision and series of commitments to support those people in contact with secondary mental health services into work. It forms part of the UK Government response to the Perkins review.

Acting on employment and mental health must be a long-term commitment. These publications support the objectives of "New Horizons: a shared vision for mental health" in England that is also published today. Taken together, our ambitions will influence future policy development across Governments and throughout the wider public sector, and bring about changes in behaviour in organisations and individuals. In so doing, they signal a long-term commitment to joint working between Government and their partners.

Copies of all the documents will be available later today in the Vote Office.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 8 December 2009*

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Financial Support (Students)

**The Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property (Mr. David Lammy):** This year Government are spending more than £5 billion on student support in England, underpinning our commitment that finance should not be a barrier to higher education. The number of undergraduate entrants to higher education has increased by 19 per cent. since 1997, and the 20 most deprived constituencies have shown higher than average growth in student numbers over that period.

Students need a simple and straightforward application service when they are applying for student support. As I said to the House on 14 October, this year's problems have had an unacceptable effect on individual students and their families. Even when they have not led to financial hardship, they have undoubtedly caused worry and frustration. It is clear that there were serious lapses in the customer service provided by the Student Loans Company (SLC).

At the beginning of September I became aware that, in this first year of operating the new service, there were delays in processing, customers were unable to speak to the company, and some documentary evidence could not be traced. I ordered that a number of actions be undertaken to enable the company to accelerate the processing of applications and to increase the number of calls being answered.

These issues are why, together with the recently appointed chair of the Student Loans Company, I commissioned Professor Sir Deian Hopkin to provide external scrutiny to the review of lessons to be learned from this year's processing problems. Professor Sir Hopkin has now provided his report and I am very grateful to him for carrying out his work so swiftly.

While at the time of this statement the Student Loans Company has paid 801,000 students, it is clear that this year the service has fallen short of expectations. The report says that:

> "While some aspects of the programme have been realised and some progress made on others, there has been a conspicuous failure in key areas of its delivery which has had a far-reaching impact on applicants and stakeholders".

The Department accepts in full all the recommendations in Professor Sir Hopkin's report and, as I would expect, the board of the Student Loans Company has also accepted the recommendations in their entirety.

I am now clear that decisive action is required to change the service and that the key to this is strengthening the leadership of the company and ensuring that the customer is at the heart of everything the company does. The chair of the Student Loans Company has confirmed that the senior management team of the company will be strengthened and reorganised.

I expect the chair to ensure that the company transforms how it communicates with its customers so that they know what to expect from the service, what is expected of them, and that risk management, contingency planning and staff training are all significantly improved.

I have asked my officials to consider the best practice in other public sector organisations to enable us to better challenge and scrutinise the company's performance. But there must be no confusion about roles: it is for the Student Loans Company board to hold the executive to account and to ensure it has the capacity and capability to deliver the service.

Key to moving forward and improving the service next year is early engagement with customers and stakeholders in the higher education sector. I have therefore asked the company to establish a stakeholder forum which will include representation from the National Union of Students, Higher Education Institutions and UCAS. This will help the company to develop Student Finance England, including implementation of the recommendations in Professor Sir Hopkin's report and should mean, with stakeholders more closely involved in the company, that many of the issues experienced this year can be identified earlier and swift action be taken to avoid them in the future.

We have invested significantly in a substantial programme of improvements which are designed to transform the way the student support service works for customers. Over the next few years, the centralised service—which takes over from applications to local authorities where the level of service was variable—will allow students to apply online; they will no longer need to send in their passports to verify their identity; and their sponsors will not need to send paper evidence of family income.

I acknowledge that some of the improvements will take time to implement, but I have received assurance from the chair that improvements in the way the service is managed will be made quickly. As the report says, the highest priority at the moment is to successfully complete this year's application cycle. There remain problems with disabled students' allowances and I have asked the Student Loans Company to engage directly with universities and assessment centres to speed up the process, and to increase staffing resource for these activities.

The chief executive and chair of the Student Loans Company have publicly apologised for the difficulties customers have suffered. As the Minister responsible for higher education, I too have expressed regret for the unacceptable service parents and students have experienced.

Customers must also play their part, and take responsibility for applying for their student support in good time if we are to ensure the service has the best chance of operating efficiently.

A copy of the report and a letter from the chair of the Student Loans Company are being deposited in the Libraries of the House and paper copies of the report will be placed in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

## TREASURY

### Northern Rock PLC

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling):** Earlier this year, the Government announced that Northern Rock would be restructured, subject to state aid approval from the European Commission. That approval was received on 28 October 2009 and the Government welcome the European Commission's decision as an important step in restoring Northern Rock to viability.

Legislation to give effect to the restructuring—The Northern Rock plc Transfer Order 2009—will be made and laid before both Houses of Parliament today.

Under the order the restructuring of the company will take place on 1 January 2010. Part of Northern Rock's business will be transferred to a new company, also wholly owned by the Treasury:

> The business transferred to the new company will include Northern Rock's retail and wholesale deposit business (other than certain wholesale deposits held on behalf of Northern Rock's Granite securitisation and covered bond programme), a proportion of its unencumbered mortgages and its mortgage origination and servicing platform. The new company will be regulated as a deposit taker by the FSA.
>
> The legal entity which is Northern Rock plc will retain the remainder of Northern Rock's mortgage book, arrangements relating to the Granite securitisation and the covered bond programme, the Government loan, its other borrowings, derivatives and certain wholesale deposits held on behalf of its Granite securitisation and covered bond programme.

The intention is that the companies will be renamed in conjunction with the transfer, such that the new company will be named "Northern Rock plc" and the old company will be named "Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc".

On restructuring the guarantees covering the liabilities of Northern Rock will be replaced by separate guarantee arrangements for Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc and Northern Rock plc. All retail deposits in Northern Rock plc continue to be guaranteed in full, and guarantees will not be lifted with less than three month's notice. Full details of the guarantee arrangements are available on the Treasury website (www.hm-treasury.gov.uk).

Both entities will continue to be wholly owned by the Government and operate at arms' length from Government on commercial principles. UK Financial Investments (UKFI) will take on management of the Government's shareholdings in these two companies. The restructuring will enable Northern Rock to increase its new lending and support the economic recovery.

Full details of the financial support provided by the Government to support the restructuring will be set out next month.

The Treasury has also made the Northern Rock plc (Tax Consequences) Regulations 2009. These regulations make provision to neutralise unintended tax consequences that could otherwise be triggered by transfers of assets and liabilities between these two companies wholly owned by the Government.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Local Government (Unitary Proposals)

**The Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination (Ms Rosie Winterton):** My right hon. Friend, the then Minister for Local Government, the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) told the House on 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 66-68WS, that we were requesting the Boundary Committee under section 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to advise on certain matters respectively relating to the unitary proposals made by Exeter city council, Ipswich borough council, and Norwich city council. We originally requested the advice by 31 December 2008, which, on account of litigation brought by certain local authority against the Boundary Committee, we subsequently extended to 8 December 2009.

The Boundary Committee has now provided its advice, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House.

In its advice the Boundary Committee has, pursuant to its powers in section 5(3) of the 2007 Act, made alternative unitary proposals covering the counties of Devon, Norfolk, and Suffolk, and recommended, on the basis of the evidence available to it, that the original unitary proposals made by Exeter city council, Ipswich borough council, and Norwich city council are not implemented.

There is now a period of six weeks until 19 January 2010 for representations to be made to the Secretary of State about the Boundary Committee's advice, and for any further representations to be made about any of the three original proposals.

Thereafter, the Secretary of State intends to take his statutory decisions under the 2007 Act as to whether to implement, with or without modification, any of the unitary proposals—the alternative proposals made by the Boundary Committee and the original proposals—before him, or to take no action. Before taking his statutory decisions he will consider carefully the Boundary Committee's advice, all the representations he receives, and all other relevant information available to him. Under the 2007 Act no proposal can be implemented unless Parliament has approved an Order giving effect to the Secretary of State's decision.

We recognise the need to end uncertainty and intend to move forward as quickly as practicable. Our priority is to ensure that the people of Devon, Norfolk, and Suffolk will have the councils that are best able to play their part at the heart of providing innovative and better value public services across the counties, providing strong strategic leadership, engaging effectively with their most local communities, and delivering efficiencies and service improvements.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan (Aircraft Deployment to ISAF)

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth):** The House will know that the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force has expanded substantially over the course of the last year and is continuing to grow in size. Air operations in support of the force have become more complex and NATO has identified a need for improved air traffic control.

I have therefore agreed a NATO request to commit two Boeing E3D Sentry aircraft and some 200 personnel from 8 Squadron, Royal Air Force, to fill this role as part of our standing contribution to the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force. The detachment will be based in the Middle East. It is separate from the British deployment in Afghanistan announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 835, and the size and structure of the latter will not be affected. On current plans, the detachment should begin to deploy shortly. It will recover to its home base at RAF Waddington by 28 February 2010.

## HEALTH

### "Healthy Children, Safer Communities" Strategy

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope):** I am pleased to announce that "Healthy Children, Safer Communities", the Government's joint strategy to promote the health and well-being needs of children and young people in contact with the youth justice system, is being published today.

This strategy will work to improve the health and well-being of children and young people in contact with the youth justice system to ensure that children and young people are safer, healthier and stay away from crime and that communities will be safer too.

In particular, the strategy:

provides a strategic framework within which local services can deliver quality improvements, and communicates the framework to the relevant health, education and youth justice organisations;

sets out the actions the Government will take to support these improvements;

develops a national approach, by building on the good work and good practice that is already underway in individual localities; and

maintains the significant impetus from recent policy developments including the Youth Crime Action Plan; Healthy Children, Brighter Futures Strategy, and Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system, to drive forward improvements in health and well-being services for children and young people in contact with the youth justice system.

The key elements of the strategy and related work for young people in contact with the youth justice system are:

harnessing mainstream services to reduce offending and reoffending—wherever children and young people are in the youth justice system, and whenever they are at risk of coming into this system, the health and well being needs should be met through mainstream services;

addressing health and well-being throughout the youth justice system—contact with the youth justice system will produce positive health and well-being outcomes for children and young people; and

making it happen—policy and decision-makers at national, regional and local level champion a strong response to the health inequalities experienced by children and young people involved in or at risk of becoming involved in antisocial and offending behaviour.

A copy of the strategy has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Justice and Home Affairs Post-Council Statement

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson):** The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held on 30 November and 1 December 2009 in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice, the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Bach, the Scottish Lord Advocate, Elish Angiolini, and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues were discussed at the Council:

The Council, in Mixed Committee with non-EU Schengen states, received an update from the presidency on the current state of play on the implementation of the regulation establishing the Visa Information System (VIS). As a result of testing delays in both the central and national databases the roll-out of VIS will now take place, subject to no further problems, in December 2010. The UK does not participate in the regulation.

The presidency then updated Ministers on arrangements for the first milestone test for the second-generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) noting that the test should take place by 29 January 2010. If the Council deemed the first milestone test to have failed it would then have two months to decide whether to switch to the contingency plan. The UK stressed the need to distinguish between technical and contractual elements of the project highlighting the importance of the milestone test in this respect. The UK could not accept a delayed milestone test being equated with non-compliance; if the test could not happen in January then the Council should be consulted on the next steps. This was reflected in Council conclusions adopted following the Mixed Committee.

The presidency sought the Council's views on the need for an IT agency and its potential scope, inviting applications from those wishing to host it before the end of the year. It concluded that there was broad support for the agency, which would manage SIS, VIS and the Eurodac systems, and the details would be further discussed at working level. The UK supported the need for an agency and wishes to take part in the adoption and application of this proposal to the extent we participate in the relevant IT systems.

The Council adopted amendments to the common visa list lifting visa requirements for Serbia, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Their citizens will no longer require a visa to enter the Schengen area. Albania and Bosnia Herzegovina were urged to work towards full completion of the benchmarks required for visa liberalisation. While the UK does not participate in the EU visa regime, we maintain an interest in all visa issues.

Under any other business Switzerland gave an update on the national referendum on the building of minarets and asked Schengen partners for their support to help free two Swiss businessmen detained in Libya since 2008.

Following Mixed Committee, the Council approved the A points list. Of note the Council endorsed the suspension of negotiations on the Council regulation and Council decision on the establishment of an evaluation mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis. The Commission has been invited to review the texts and devise next steps, due to the European Parliament's rejection of the text and the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty.

The Council adopted the decision authorising the presidency to sign the EU agreement with Japan on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters which includes important safeguards regarding the death penalty. Other measures of note included a framework decision on prevention and settlement of conflicts of jurisdiction in criminal proceedings, a resolution on a "roadmap" for strengthening procedural rights of suspected or accused persons in criminal proceedings, and Council conclusions on model provisions guiding the Council's criminal law deliberations.

The presidency presented the draft future JHA work programme (the Stockholm programme). The Council considered interior issues on the first day and justice on the second. All delegations welcomed the draft text, although points on mutual recognition of asylum decisions and training targets for police and judges remained contentious. On asylum, the Commission insisted on mutual recognition of asylum decisions as a long-term objective. The UK along with a number of other member states supported a text reflecting that beneficiaries of international protection should not have an automatic right to move throughout the European Union. In addition the UK secured language limiting ambitious targets for providing training in European law to police and judiciary to those who were concerned with European co-operation. The UK also secured acceptable language on the "Roadmap" on criminal procedural rights.

Overall, the Government welcome the Stockholm programme, which will allow the EU to build upon the many successes of EU collaboration in this area. The programme will now go to the December European Council for final agreement. An action plan for implementation of this JHA work programme will be presented by the Commission as soon as possible in 2010.

Over lunch Interior Ministers held a discussion on the location of the European Asylum Support Office. The Council agreed that the office should be located in Valletta, Malta.

After lunch, the Commission introduced its proposals to revise directives on asylum procedures and qualification. The UK fully supported the objectives to streamline standards, simplify the law and combat abuse, but not the draft directives, which would go in the opposite direction. Restrictions on accelerated procedures would stop member states making fast, fair decisions on asylum applications. Lengthening the process and unnecessary burdens (like new rules on translation) would result in additional costs. Changes to who qualifies could actually result in member states granting asylum to those not in need of EU protection. Measures on unaccompanied minors would have negative effects and could undermine efforts to reduce human trafficking. These concerns were supported by other member states.

The presidency presented its paper on external relations to the Council and updated the Council on the recent global migration forum, held in Athens in early November.

The EU Counter-terrorism Co-ordinator (CTC), Gilles de Kerchove, presented his six-monthly report and outlined considerations for ongoing efforts to implement the CT strategy. Priorities would be: victims; prevention; information management; co-operation with the private sector; and development and security. The UK supports efforts made by the CTC to continue to drive forward EU co-operation on CT, and is particularly appreciative of his efforts with priority third countries, such as Pakistan. The Commission looked forward to further work with the private sector, such as follow up by future presidencies of the recent seminar organised by the UK's Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI), and encouraged member states to further co-ordinate their counter-terrorism strategies.

The Council agreed the EU-US agreement on the processing and transfer of financial messaging data for the purposes of the US terrorist finance tracking programme (TFTP). This agreement, supported by the UK, was required due to a restructure of the SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank financial Telecommunications) system used by the TFTP to identify and trace terrorist finance and facilitators. The presidency concluded that the interim agreement would be signed and, though temporary, did contain strengthened data protection provisions. It will come into force on 1 February 2010.

Under any other business, the Commission noted the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty on 1 December: any third pillar proposals not adopted would become void and would need to be re-negotiated; new proposals would be brought forward under the new Commission, as soon as possible in 2010. Spain outlined its presidency priorities and, in the margins of the Council, the UK joined other member states in signing a mobility partnership agreement with Georgia.

On day two, the presidency outlined the progress made during negotiations on the framework decision on combating sexual abuse, exploitation of children and child pornography. A new proposal will be needed, following the coming into force of the Lisbon treaty. The Commission said it would table one as soon as possible. The UK welcomed the progress made and looked forward to a new Commission proposal.

Justice Ministers then debated transfer of proceedings in criminal matters. This covered, among other things, the extent to which EU action could add value to the 1972 Council of Europe convention on transfer of proceedings, in particular in relation to jurisdiction. The UK congratulated the presidency on its efforts to try to reach agreement on this complicated issue. It is not clear whether or when, a new proposal on this subject will be brought forward.

The presidency updated the Council on the way forward on negotiations to update the framework decision on combating trafficking of human beings and, following the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty, looked forward to a new Commission proposal. The UK supported this view for an updated framework decision, drawing on the good work done by the Swedish presidency.

The presidency also updated the Council on the adoption of the action-oriented paper (AOP) and the human trafficking conference held in October. The UK highlighted that the implementation of the AOP should focus on how existing measures, instruments, and mechanisms could be best utilised. The UK welcomed the presidency's efforts to link JHA work with the external dimension, but also needed to address the internal EU dimension of trafficking, as the EU contained source, transit and destination countries.

There was a state of play report on e-Justice, during which it was explained that the launch of the European e-Justice portal had been delayed for technical reasons. It is hoped that the launch can be rescheduled for the first half of 2010.

Under AOB, Spain listed their priorities for their presidency, which included the European protection warrant, and making progress on the new proposal on succession and wills.

### Autumn Performance Report

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson):** The Home Office Autumn Performance Report 2009 has been published today by Command of Her Majesty.

It includes our report against the 2007 Public Service Agreements that are led by the Home Office. These PSAs ensure controlled, fair migration that protects the public and contributes to economic growth, make communities safer, reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs and reducing the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism.

The report also provides an update on performance against the targets we set in the 2004 spending review that are still current. It shows that we have met our targets to reduce unfounded asylum intake and we are on course to reduce the harm caused by drugs.

Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office. The report is also available on the Home Office website.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Right to Control (Disabled People) - Government Response

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper):** In 2005, the Government made public their commitment to work towards equality for disabled people by 2025. Since then we have come a long way but, as many disabled people know, we still have further to go.

To help achieve this ambition, on 11 June 2009 we launched a national consultation on the Right to Control by publishing the consultation paper, "Making choice and control a reality for disabled people: consultation on the Right to Control". We have also legislated for a Right to Control for disabled people in the Welfare Reform Act 2009, which recognises that disabled people are the experts in their own lives. We have worked closely with disabled people and their organisations to develop this right, including with our advisory group, chaired by Baroness Jane Campbell, and will test it in our Trailblazers, which will start in late 2010.

The consultation concluded on 30 September 2009 and 176 responses were submitted from individual disabled people, user-led organisations, service providers and local authorities, amongst others. These responses have helped us understand what areas we need to focus on and develop in order to offer a right that will be truly transformative for disabled people. Today, with the publication of the Government Response, "Making choice and control a reality for disabled people: Government Response to the consultation on the Right to Control", we can take another step towards delivering the Right to Control and improve the life chances of disabled people by giving them more choice and control over how public money is spent to meet their individual care and support needs.

The Government response to the Right to Control consultation can be viewed and downloaded from the Office for Disability Issues website at www.odi.gov.uk/right-to-control. Copies of the document will be placed in the House Library.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 9 December 2009*

## TREASURY

### Fiscal Responsibility Bill (Draft Secondary Legislation)

**The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson):** The Treasury has today published draft secondary legislation in relation to the Fiscal Responsibility Bill to indicate how the Treasury intends to use one of the powers provided by the Bill. Copies of the document are available in the Vote Office and have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Pre-Budget Report Measures

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry):** Budget 2009 announced that, in order to ensure that the system of pensions tax relief remains fair, affordable and sustainable, tax relief on pension contributions would be restricted for those with incomes of £150,000 and over. This restriction applies to all contributions, including those from employers.

The gap between the announcement and implementation creates a real risk that those affected, or who believe they might be affected, would attempt to forestall the new rules by making large contributions now to take advantage of higher rate tax relief that would not be available to them after April 2011.

To prevent this, at Budget 2009 the Government introduced an anti-forestalling regime. It seeks to enable high-income individuals to continue to receive higher rate relief on pension contributions that they would have made in the absence of the announcement of the 2011 reform, but not on higher contributions prompted by that announcement.

As announced in the 2009 pre-Budget report, the restriction of relief from April 2011 will apply to individuals whose income, including the value of any pension benefit funded by (or eventually funded by) an individual's employer, is £150,000 or over. This will be subject to an income floor so that those with pre-tax incomes, excluding the value of any employer contributions, of less than £130,000 are unaffected. So, the restriction will apply to about 2 per cent. of pension savers, who currently receive around a quarter of tax relief on pension contributions.

To prevent an estimated £400 million of tax revenues being put at risk before April 2011 by additional forestalling, the Government have today announced that the anti-forestalling rules will be extended to apply to individuals on incomes of £130,000 and over (with income being as defined on the same basis as in the existing anti-forestalling rules), effective from 9 December 2009 and for the remainder of this tax year and next. This will be legislated in Finance Bill 2010 and draft clauses will be published shortly.

Those newly brought into the regime will be subject to the special annual allowance, which remains unchanged. This means that they will continue to receive higher rate relief up to the level of their normal (defined as quarterly or more regular) pension contributions; or the lower of £30,000 and average contributions over the past three years if contributions are less regular than quarterly; or £20,000; whichever is highest. Contributions exceeding these limits made prior to the new rules taking effect will not be charged. Further detail on these provisions is available at: www.hmrc.gov.uk. Around 98 per cent. of pension savers will not see their tax relief restricted by these provisions.

The Government believe that this action is necessary, and that a straightforward extension of the current anti-forestalling provisions is the simplest, least disruptive and least burdensome way to achieve this.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Education, Youth and Culture Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Siôn Simon):** A meeting of the Education, Youth and Culture Council was held on 26 and 27 November. I represented the UK for the culture and audiovisual section of the Council on 27 November.

The Council adopted, without further debate, the conclusions on promoting a creative generation by developing the creativity and innovative capacity of children and young people through cultural expression and access to culture.

The proposal for the European Year of Voluntary Activities promoting Active Citizenship (2011) was adopted by the Council. The year's aim is to improve the environment for volunteering in the EU, to raise the quality of voluntary activities and to recognise the value and importance of volunteering. A budget of €8 million has been allocated for this initiative.

The Council adopted the conclusions on media literacy in the digital environment encouraging the promotion of media literacy, including through formal and informal education, to maximise the potential of the internet and minimise possible risks. The conclusions were adopted without further discussion.

There was then a presentation by the Commission on the Google Books Report. The Commission had strong concerns about the revised Google books settlement, and argued for the development of an EU legal framework on global copyright issues. The Commission encouraged member states to increase the number of EU books being digitised and highlighted that initial findings from the recent Consultation on Europeana (The European Digital Library) has shown strong support for the initiative.

A policy debate on the digitisation of cultural content in Europe followed the Commission's presentation. All member states agreed on the importance of fair but user-friendly copyright rules, and the need for EU level co-operation and encouragement. Public-private partnerships were also supported by the majority of member states, with many citing the usefulness of the Arrow project. There was no request for further member state funding for Europeana.

Under any other business, France raised the current financial difficulties faced by cinemas in transferring to digital systems. Slovenia, supported by a number of member states, requested that books written in minority languages should be allowed to have a zero tax rate. The Spanish gave a brief presentation on their forthcoming presidency. An informal Council meeting would be held on 29 and 30 March, a seminar on copyright and digital libraries in Madrid on 26 and 27 April, a European Cultural Heritage conference on 29 April and a conference on the Mobility of Artists on 25 May in Madrid.

Finally, Austria asked the Commission to explain their proposed next steps following a letter received from Commissioner Reding on the Council of Europe convention on transfrontier television. This concerned the legal implications of signing a Convention that related to an area of EU competence. The Commissioner argued that the letter merely reflected the current legal reality. The Commission did not want their future right of initiative to be affected by the Council of Europe convention, but agreed that we should co-operate on the basis of complementarity. They did not rule out the possibility that a prior negotiating mandate may be necessary.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture and Fisheries Council (14-16 December)

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** The Under-Secretary of State responsible for the natural and marine environment, wildlife and rural affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies), will represent the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels from 14 to16 December.

There are a number of items on the agenda relating to agriculture and fisheries which are of significant interest to the United Kingdom, including the adoption of the recent dairy proposals, on which the UK will abstain. Discussions will take place on the following:

Conservation of fisheries resources through technical measures.

EU/Norway annual fisheries consultations for 2010.

2010 fishing opportunities for fish stocks in the Black sea.

Simplification of the common agricultural policy.

Future of the common agricultural policy: rural development.

There are currently two items under any other business—a statement on Community action reducing incidental catches of seabirds; and general conclusions from the 26th conference of EU paying agencies.

There is also a ministerial lunch scheduled to discuss the reform of the common fisheries policy.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Security Industry Authority Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell):** I am pleased to announce that the annual report and accounts of the Security Industry Authority (SIA) for 2008-09 will be laid before Parliament today and will be published on 11 December 2009.

Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund

**The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander):** The UK has provided £40 million per annum for the past four years to support the United Nations (UN) Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The CERF provides UN humanitarian agencies with early funding so that they can respond immediately when a crisis strikes. The fund is also able to channel funds to neglected emergencies.

To date, over US$1.5 billion has been contributed to the CERF by 109 UN member states and 19 private donors, of which the UK is the largest single contributor. During this time, the CERF has committed $1.4 billion to emergency programmes in 71 countries. CERF has been an important part of the humanitarian response in nearly every major crisis in 2009. CERF was the top source of funding for five of the six UN emergency appeals launched in 2009 namely Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Namibia, Burkina Faso, and the Philippines. The top recipients of CERF funds to date have been: DRC ($162 million), Sudan ($102 million), Kenya ($79.4 million) Somalia ($71.3 million), Ethiopia ($69.5 million), Afghanistan ($60.1million), Sri Lanka ($56.8 million) and Zimbabwe ($52.2 million).

CERF has performed well over its first four years of operation. An independent evaluation of the fund in 2008 found that the CERF

> "has proven itself as a valuable and impartial tool, becoming in a short time-frame, an essential feature of international humanitarian action and complementing other humanitarian financing mechanisms".

The evaluation report concluded that CERF has helped to accelerate humanitarian response and increase the coverage of needs.

The UK is represented on the CERF Advisory Group, which provides the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator with advice on the speed and appropriateness of fund allocations, and examines performance and accountability. We share the view that the CERF has made good progress.

In the light of the CERF's solid performance to date, and as part of our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of the UK's response to humanitarian crises, I am pleased to inform the House that I have approved a further commitment to the CERF of £120 million over the next three years (January 2010 to December 2012). We will monitor the performance of the CERF closely to ensure this investment is used to the best effect. I hope that this long-term commitment will encourage other donors to do likewise, thereby strengthening the financial sustainability of the CERF. We will continue to actively lobby key donors to this end.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 10 December 2009*

## TREASURY

### Financial Sector

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling):** The Treasury has today published a discussion document on possible international options to reduce the cost to taxpayers of financial sector failures. "Risk, reward and responsibility: the financial sector and society" is a contribution to the international debate on the future of the global financial sector.

The document highlights the importance of the financial sector to the UK economy alongside the risks it poses to society. While some risk-taking is inherent in financial sector operations, the recent financial crisis has shown the high cost to taxpayers when risk-taking becomes excessive. The document considers ways in which the financial sector might contribute to the potential costs of any residual risks it poses to taxpayers and to broader social objectives.

I have placed copies of the document in the Library and the document is also available on HM Treasury's website.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Early Years Funding

**The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Dawn Primarolo):** This Government have transformed the provision of early years education and childcare in this country, increasing investment sevenfold since 1997 and creating a universal free offer for three and four-year-olds.

As a result there is now nearly universal take-up of the 12½ hours of free early learning and childcare available to three and four-year-olds, and we remain on course to extend the provision to 15 hours per week from September 2010. The commitment and endeavour of early years providers across the country have been crucial to this success.

In 2007 we announced plans to introduce a single local Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF).

This aims to provide greater consistency and transparency in local decision-making concerning the funding of the free entitlement for three and four-year-olds.

The necessary paving legislation for the EYSFF was included in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, which has recently completed its passage through Parliament. The introduction of the EYSFF was welcomed by Members on all sides of both Houses.

Our intention has been that every local authority should implement the EYSFF from April 2010. In anticipation of this many local authorities have been working hard to prepare for this and have engaged positively with local providers.

However, during the summer it became clear that a significant number of local authorities were experiencing difficulty in developing their EYSFF. More recently, parents and providers, from both the maintained and the PVI sectors, have expressed concerns about the potential adverse impact on provision if the EYSFF is introduced now.

In response to these concerns the Department acted quickly to survey all local authorities, to establish how much progress they had made. This was completed towards the end of November and found considerable variation in terms of their readiness.

The data and information we have collected now suggests that less than a third of local authorities will be in a secure position to implement their EYSFF from April 2010. While it is difficult to generalise about the underlying reasons it seems clear that some local authorities have experienced serious difficulties in obtaining accurate data from their providers, while others have simply found the task extremely challenging.

I have therefore decided to postpone the formal implementation date for the EYSFF by one year until April 2011.

I have asked my officials to invite all local authorities that are confident they are ready to implement their new formulae in April 2010 and who wish to do so to continue as planned. These local authorities will be able to apply to join a pathfinder programme, which currently involves nine local authorities but which we will now expand.

This expansion will increase the capacity of the pathfinder programme to develop practice from which other local authorities can learn.

The Government remain strongly committed to the introduction of the EYSFF in all areas from April 2011. We believe that it is only through the effective implementation of the EYSFF that all providers across the sector can have confidence in local decisions about funding. This 12-month delay should provide sufficient time for concerns to be addressed, without incurring a risk of drift. It will also allow time for more dedicated support to be offered to those local authorities that need it in order to complete the development of their formula.

### Revised Schools Admissions Code

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ms Diana R. Johnson):** Today I have presented to Parliament a revised School Admissions Code ('the Code'). Subject to the usual Parliamentary procedure, this revised Code will come into force in February 2010.

This statement follows on from previous statements I have made accepting recommendations made by Sir Jim Rose from his primary curriculum review in April 2009, in particular those designed to help improve outcomes for summer-born children, by enabling them to start school from the September following their fourth birthday.

Sir Jim Rose recommended that, subject to parents taking into account their child's maturity and readiness to enter reception class, summer-born children should be entitled to start part school in the September after their fourth birthday. This could be at part-time basis if parents prefer.

A study for the primary curriculum review by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) found that admissions policies do matter and that, in general, summer-born children are slightly better off in terms of cognitive outcomes at Key Stages 1-3 if they start school in the September following their fourth birthday. The IFS study also reported that summer-born children risk being treated as 'immature' in comparison with their older classmates, giving rise to lack of confidence and low self-regard that may limit expectations of them and their expectations of themselves. Furthermore, a literature review by the National Foundation for Educational Research concluded that children who start school later will spend less time in reception class prior to entering Year 1 of primary school, and therefore they may lose some of the educational experience that will develop and prepare them for their school careers.

The majority of local authority areas already operate an entry point in September following a child's fourth birthday so summer-born children do not have the same education opportunities across the country. Implementing this proposal will therefore provide a fair system for parents, which also gives them more choice to meet their own child's needs. Research conducted by Sir Jim Rose found that 61 per cent. of parents of children currently in part-time maintained provision and 63 per cent. of parents with summer-born children would move to a full-time provision once offered.

The aim of the policy change is to enable parents to choose between school or other early learning provision for their four years olds. Some parents have a strong preference for their child's early years experience to take place outside a school setting. I am therefore also making arrangements to enable all children to receive full and part time provision in private, voluntary, independent and maintained nurseries from the September after their fourth birthday up until compulsory school age.

Parents who prefer to delay their child's starting school would be able to defer a school place until compulsory school age—as they can already do now. But it is right that all children should be in school—playing and learning and developing—from age five.

The four years olds proposal is just one of many recommendations made by the primary curriculum review aimed at giving greater parental choice and improving transition and outcomes for all children, particularly summer-born children and vulnerable groups such as those with SEN, who Sir Jim felt would benefit most from starting school early. We are already reforming the primary curriculum to encourage a smoother transition from early years foundation stage (EYFS) into school by arranging the curriculum in six areas of learning (similar to EYFS areas of learning and development) and free it up for teachers. This supports my proposal by creating an appropriate school environment for all four years olds.

Continuing play based learning into primary schools and ensuring children receive learning experiences appropriate to their age and circumstances is a key feature of the new primary curriculum. Whether in reception classes, or in nurseries, four year olds will benefit from receiving the early years foundation stage full-time.

Also in line with my earlier statement, over the next few months, we will provide information to parents and local authorities about the optimum conditions, flexibilities and benefits to children of entering reception class in the September immediately after their fourth birthday.

Following a consultation on relevant changes, this revised Code will require all admission authorities to provide for the admission of children following their fourth birthday, from September 2011 onwards.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Food Labelling (Occupied Palestinian Territories)

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** DEFRA has today issued advice to retailers and importers who wish to respond to consumer demand for information about the origin of food that has been produced in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).

Importers, retailers, NGOs and consumers have asked the Government for clarity over the precise origin of products from the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). The label "West Bank" does not allow consumers to distinguish between goods originating from Palestinian producers and goods originating from illegal Israeli settlements.

Rules on the labelling of produce are set by the European Union and require that the place of origin or provenance should be supplied on foodstuffs where omission of such information might materially mislead the consumer about true origin or provenance of the foodstuff.

Since the "West Bank" is a recognised geographical area within the OPTs, labelling produce with the "West Bank" does not infringe EU labelling rules. However, retailers have informed us of consumer demand for more detailed information.

Therefore, in March, the Government arranged a round-table discussion between interested parties to look at how retailers could make labelling clearer for consumers.

We have taken these views into account, and have today issued advice to retailers and importers. This will help them consider how best to respond to consumer demand for information about the origin of food that has been produced in the OPT.

The Government will keep their policy on labelling food imports from the OPTs under review, in conjunction with the European Commission and other EU member states, and in the light of developments in the middle east peace process. The Government believe that that existence, and continued growth, of Israeli settlements poses a significant obstacle to peace in the middle east. At the same time, the clear position of the Government is that we are opposed to boycotts of Israel or Israeli goods. We do not believe that boycotts help engage or influence Israel, or lead to progress in the middle east peace process.

Copies of the advice will be placed in the House Library and on the DEFRA website: www.defra.gov.uk.

### South Downs National Park

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** On 12 November, *Official Report*, column 32WS, I informed the House that I was confirming the designation of the South Downs national park and signing the orders which set the precise boundary. I am now proceeding to establish a national park authority for the new national park.

On 16 July 2009 I consulted on the membership of the future South Downs national park authority, proposing that the authority should have from 29 to 37 members. I am most grateful to all those who have taken the time to submit a response to that consultation.

There was a diverse range of views expressed, not only on the size of the proposed authority, but also on its composition, and on the representation of those who live in and around the new park. Although several people offered views on how parish seats might be allocated, this is a matter for the parish councils within the park to determine.

The main reasons cited by those in favour of a 37 seat authority or larger were that it would enable proportional representation of all local authorities, as well as enable more "grass roots" representation with parish councils having several seats. While I understand the reasons for many respondents favouring such a composition, it is the case that, once selected to serve on the park authority, members are expected to act in the best interests of the park in its entirety, so any emphasis on weighted representation is not really consistent with that principle.

A number of respondents favoured a "medium" sized authority of around 31-33 members, in preference to the two ends of the range laid out in the consultation paper. While appreciating that this might draw together the best features of both a large and small authority, it would not be large enough to allow it to be fully weighted nor would it be small enough to minimise the additional administrative burden which a larger authority might create.

Those supporting a smaller, 29 seat authority saw it as creating an efficient, cost-effective authority, with faster decision making, and at a lower cost to the taxpayer. The suggested composition was generally 15 local authority, eight national and six parish seats. Although a smaller authority would mean weighted representation would not be possible, it would still allow every local authority one seat.

A further option emerged in the wake of the consultation which is for a 27 seat authority. This is made possible because two local authorities have stated they wish to share a seat. This would reduce the minimum number of local authority seats from 15 to 14. As I have previously confirmed my view that local authorities should have an absolute majority, this would require the Government to respond to the reduction in local authority members by reducing the number of "national" members from 8 to 7. So the overall composition could be 14 local authority, seven "national" and six parish seats.

Having considered each of the above options carefully, and being satisfied that it would be appropriate for Worthing and Adur councils to share a seat, I have decided to opt for a 27 seat authority. In order to ensure that the national park authority keeps in close touch with communities and is able to respond to their concerns, I expect the authority to place a big emphasis on community and stakeholder engagement. I shall now include the 27 member authority in the statutory instrument which I shall lay before Parliament around the turn of the year. With Parliament's consent, this will allow the national park authority to be established from 1 April 2010 and to become operational from 1 April 2011.

A summary of the responses, plus a list of all respondents, can be found on the DEFRA website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/south-downs-membership/index.htm.

## HEALTH

### Autumn Performance Report

**The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham):** I have today laid before Parliament my Department's autumn performance report for 2009 (CM 7776). The report is in the Library of the House and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

The autumn performance report provides the second public report of progress on our public service agreements, departmental strategic objectives and value for money targets set for this comprehensive spending review period.

### NHS 2010-15

**The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham):** I have today laid before Parliament "The NHS 2010-15: from good to great. Preventative, people-centred, productive" (Cm 7775). The paper is in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

"The NHS 2010-15" maps out how we will build on the achievements of the last decade to create a more preventative and people-centred NHS—a service that is better for patients, but also more productive. It is intended to give the NHS time to plan for the challenges of a new era.

In the past, a tougher financial environment has meant that patients have paid the price through longer waits. But this will not happen this time. We will not back away from the NHS. The Pre-Budget report confirms that we can lock in the achievements of the last decade, while protecting staff and the service as a whole.

The document also sets out how we will continue to improve the NHS, according to the principles set out in the next stage review. It outlines the following key steps:

> a new payment system which puts patients first, and ensures they get the high quality care they deserve. A growing proportion of hospital's income will be linked to patient satisfaction, rising to 10 per cent. of their payments over time. Poor or unsafe care will not be tolerated—payments will be withdrawn if care does not meet minimum standards;
>
> more choice for patients—giving them the right to register with a GP wherever they choose, a guarantee of seeing a doctor in the evenings and weekends in every area, and more access to services—like chemotherapy and dialysis—at home or in the community;
>
> dedicated carers for patients with cancer or serious long-term conditions who can benefit from a more personal approach to nursing. We expect all parts of the NHS to review continually the way long-term conditions are managed and to seek out and adopt best practice. Where appropriate this should include the

provision of personalised one-to-one support by a health professional, particularly for the more complex conditions. We will consider and cost the possibility of a patient entitlement in this area. This will benefit millions of people;

new rights to high quality care—including the right for patients to die at home. Enshrining the right to a "good death" is the mark of a civilised health system. The NHS will ensure a dying patient can choose where they wish to spend their final days;

more freedom for hospitals. The best NHS foundation trusts will be free to work across a wider area. We will encourage high-performing foundation trusts based in one area to provide both acute and community services in other areas, if the PCTs in those areas want to commission from them; and

greater emphasis on prevention—we want the NHS to intervene earlier and prevent more disease. We will provide access to personal care plans and health-checks for anyone suffering with a long-term condition. Patients will be invited to discuss and agree their care plan with their clinician, giving them a greater say in their care.

Under this plan services will be reshaped around the needs of patients more radically than ever before. The NHS and its staff will need to adapt as they strive to make the changes necessary, but they will be supported in doing so. The results will be better patient safety, better health outcomes, more satisfied patients—and, ultimately, a stronger NHS.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Intercept as Evidence

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson):** The Government have no higher duty than to protect the public. A critical tool in this is the warranted interception of communications that allows law enforcement and intelligence agencies to gather intelligence about those individuals who seek to do us harm.

Intercept material obtained under a RIPA warrant cannot currently be used as evidence in criminal trials. It has been, and remains, the Government's objective to find a way to make this possible. In February 2008, the Prime Minister accepted the findings of a Privy Council review, chaired by Sir John Chilcot, which recommended that intercept should be admissible as evidence subject to meeting nine operational requirements, which the review judged to be necessary to protect the public and national security. He set in train the necessary implementation process and established an advisory group, comprising the right hon. Sir John Chilcot, the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Sir Alan Beith), the right hon. and learned Member for Folkestone and Hythe (Mr. Howard), and my right hon. And noble Friend Lord Archer of Sandwell, in order to help safeguard intelligence capability and protect the public.

In my written ministerial statement to the House of 16 July I provided an update on the progress of the implementation programme. I said that I would make a formal report to Parliament on the results and conclusions after end of the summer recess.

I am today publishing a Command Paper setting out the work programme's findings and conclusions. Copies will be available in the Vote Office. I am also placing in the Libraries of both Houses copies of a separate report to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister by the advisory group. The Prime Minister and I are grateful to the advisory group for its work. I echo their recognition both of the complexity and sensitivity of the work programme and the commitment and thoroughness of officials in undertaking it.

Any implementation of intercept as evidence must, as set out in the original Privy Council review, ensure that trials continue to be fair and that the operational requirements to protect current capabilities are met. As noted in the advisory group's interim report to the Prime Minister, reported in my predecessor's written ministerial statement of 12 February and placed in the Libraries of both Houses, there is an intrinsic tension between these legal and operational requirements.

The work programme set out to develop a model for intercept as evidence that successfully reconciled these requirements, based on the approach recommended by the Privy Council review. This model has been subject to extensive practical testing, with the close involvement of senior independent legal practitioners. This testing has demonstrated that the model, if fully funded, would be broadly consistent with the operational requirements. However, it would not be legally viable, in that it would not ensure continued fairness at court. This has been confirmed by a recent European Court of Human Rights case (*Natunen v Finland*). The result would be to damage rather than enhance our ability to bring terrorists and other serious criminals to justice.

These findings are disappointing. In the light of them, the Government conclude, as does the advisory group, that the model does not represent a viable basis for implementation. However, the Government also share the advisory group's view that the potential gains from a workable intercept as evidence regime justifies further work. We therefore welcome the group's suggestion of three areas of analysis, beyond the scope of the original work programme, intended to establish whether the problems identified are capable of being resolved. These areas are to examine:

Further enhancing the judicial oversight available.

Full retention of intercept material alongside alternative review requirements.

Advances in technology which might make full retention and review more manageable.

The Government agree with the advisory group that while continuing to seek innovative and imaginative approaches, these should not be at the cost of the operational requirements, and hence national security or public protection. I am grateful for the advisory group's agreement to continue in its current invaluable role and for agreeing to be similarly engaged on interception related matters that have arisen in the context of the Coroners and Justice Bill.

The Government will report the results of this activity to Parliament before the Easter recess.

### UK Border Agency

**The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas):** A revised version of the framework agreement for the UK Border Agency is being published today. The framework has been updated following the passage of the Borders Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009. The new document reflects, in particular, the transfer of customs functions and staff to the Home Office from HM Revenue and Customs. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

## JUSTICE

### Freedom of Information Act 2000

**The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw):** I have today given the Information Commissioner a certificate under section 53 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'). The certificate relates to case FS50100665 from 23 June 2009 in which, in my opinion, the Information Commissioner wrongly found that the Cabinet Office had failed to comply with section 1(1)(b) of the Act by withholding copies of the minutes of the Cabinet Ministerial Committee on Devolution to Scotland and Wales and the English Regions (DSWR) of 1997. The consequence of my giving the Information Commissioner a certificate is that the Commissioner's decision notice ceases to have effect.

A copy of the certificate has therefore been laid before each House of Parliament. I have additionally placed a copy of the certificate and a detailed statement of the reasons for my decision in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

This is only the second time this power (the 'veto') has been exercised since the Act came into force in 2005 and over that period of time central Government have received approximately 160,000 non-routine requests for information. The decision to exercise the veto in this case was not taken lightly but in accordance with the statement of Government policy[1] on the use of the executive override as it relates to information falling within the scope of section 35(1) of the Act.

In accordance with the policy, my conclusion rests on an assessment of the public interest in disclosure and non-disclosure of these Cabinet minutes, and of the exceptional nature of the case. While the convention of collective Cabinet responsibility is only one part of the public interest test, in my view disclosure of the information in this case would put the convention at serious risk of harm. As an integral part of our system of Government the maintenance of the convention is strongly in the public interest and must be given appropriate weight when deciding where the balance of the public interest lies.

Having done that, and having taken into account all of the circumstances of this case, I have concluded that the public interest falls in favour of non-disclosure and that this is an exceptional case where release would be damaging to the convention of collective responsibility and detrimental to the effective operation of Cabinet Government. Consequently, this case warrants the exercise of the veto.

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[1] Annexed to 'Statement of Reasons' at: http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/announcement240209a.htm

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Parliamentary Standards (Legislative Proposals)

**The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman):** The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) published its report on MPs' expenses and allowances on 4 November. The Government are grateful to the Committee for its work and welcome the Committee's recommendations.

The House has sought clarification on the question of what further legislation the Government will bring forward in the light of the CSPL's recommendations, which I set out in this statement today. The House will wish to be aware that in preparing this statement the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has had constructive discussions with both Sir Christopher Kelly, Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, and Professor Sir Ian Kennedy, Chairman of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I am pleased, on behalf of both the Lord Chancellor and myself, to be able to report to the House that both Sir Christopher and Sir Ian are in agreement with the proposed approach to further legislation and on the amendments set out below.

Many of the CSPL recommendations relate to the substance of a new parliamentary allowances scheme. Others, however, relate to the scope and functions of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA), now being set up under the provisions of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 which passed into law earlier this year.

Those substantive recommendations of the CSPL report that relate to the drawing up of the allowances scheme are , of course, under the provisions of the Act, now a matter for consideration by and decision of the new independent authority. The IPSA will shortly be conducting its statutory consultation on a proposed new allowances scheme. Its chair has already made clear that the CSPL recommendations will be central to this consultation.

In relation to the recommendations identified as requiring legislation, the Government's proposals are as follows:

*Power to make deductions from resettlement grant*

The Committee recommends that

> "where an MP is found to have seriously abused the expenses system or otherwise seriously breached the code of conduct, the Standards and Privileges Committee should always consider recommending that the House reduce or remove the resettlement grant from that MP as part of any sanctions to be imposed and should be prepared to do this for past as well as for future breaches of the rules. The new statutory scheme should empower the House of Commons to impose such a sanction by resolution".

(Recommendation 33).

The Parliamentary Standards Act already provides that the IPSA's power to pay MPs' salaries is subject to anything done in exercise of the disciplinary powers of the House. This enables the IPSA, for example, to give effect to a resolution of the House following an S&P recommendation that an MP should lose salary for a specified time. The Government will bring forward legislation to make the same provision in relation to allowances (including resettlement grant).

*Statutory duty of efficiency, cost-effectiveness and openness*

The Committee recommends that

> "the independent regulator should have a statutory duty to support MPs efficiently, cost-effectively and transparently in carrying out their parliamentary functions"

(Recommendation 41).

IPSA itself is already under a duty to carry out its functions efficiently and cost effectively and is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. The Government will also bring forward legislation to ensure that there is specific reference to supporting MPs to carry out their parliamentary duties in an efficient, cost-effective and transparent way. (See also response to recommendations 49 and 60).

*Register of Financial Interests and Code of Conduct*

The Committee recommends that

"responsibility for maintaining the register of financial interests and the associated code of conduct should be removed from the independent regulator and returned to the House of Commons"

(Recommendation 42).

The Government propose to repeal section 8 of the 2009 Act and the consequential references to it.

*Pay and pensions*

The Committee recommends that

"the independent determination of MPs' pay and pensions should be entrenched in primary legislation in the same way as expenses. The independent regulator should therefore be given statutory responsibility for setting MPs' pay levels and overseeing MPs' pensions as well as for dealing with expenses"

(Recommendation 43).

Provision for pay to be included in the IPSA's remit was in an early pre-introduction version of the Parliamentary Standards Bill but was removed after representations made in the intensive cross-party talks.

Now there is a clear consensus that IPSA should take on responsibility for pay and pensions, the Government will bring forward legislation to give IPSA the power to set, as well as to administer, the MPs' pay system, after consulting the Senior Salaries Review Body. The powers for both pay and pensions would therefore take effect in 2011-12. MPs' pay in 2011-12 would then be set by the IPSA on the basis of the SSRB recommendation for that year. Pay in 2012-13 and subsequently would be set by the IPSA following consultation with the SSRB and others as appropriate.

*Breaches of the rules on expenses*

The Committee recommends that

"responsibility for investigating allegations about breaches of the rules on expenses should be vested in the independent regulator, which should be able to appoint its own compliance officer for this purpose. The compliance officer should be able to conduct an investigation on his or her own initiative, at the request of the independent regulator, or in response to a complaint from a member of the public or an MP"

(Recommendation 44).

Provision for the IPSA to appoint an officer responsible for investigations and compliance, who would act at arm's length from the other functions of the IPSA, was included by the Government in the original draft of the Parliamentary Standards Bill but was amended after strong representations from the Chairman of the Standards and Privileges Committee. As there is now clear consensus on this, the Government propose to amend the Parliamentary Standards Act to provide for a compliance officer to be appointed by the IPSA through a process of fair and open competition. The compliance officer will be an independent office holder. The powers of the compliance officer to investigate complaints will be similar to those presently vested in the Independent Commissioner. The powers in relation to sanctions will be significantly different (see below).

*Enforcement powers of the IPSA*

The Committee recommends

"that the independent regulator's enforcement regime should be strengthened by giving it the power to:

Compel MPs to cooperate with the new body, including through the provision of relevant information.

Require the repayment of wrongly paid or misclaimed sums, with associated costs if appropriate.

Impose, subject to the procedural safeguards laid out in the Act, its own non-parliamentary sanctions for breaches of the expenses regime (including where necessary of a financial nature) analogous to those available to HMRC and DWP, without the need to report to the Commissioner for Parliamentary Standards"

(Recommendation 45).

The Parliamentary Standards Bill which the Government presented to Parliament contained provisions allowing the IPSA to recommend sanctions. They were removed during the Bill's passage.

As it now appears that allowing sanctions to be imposed directly by the regulator is acceptable, the Government will introduce amendments to the 2009 Act to give the compliance officer the power to impose sanctions, namely a civil penalty, as well as requiring restitution of wrongly paid allowances. Repayments, monetary penalties and costs will also be made recoverable as a civil debt. In addition, the Government will provide a route of appeal from the decisions of the compliance officer to the first-tier tribunal. Since allowances claims are not covered by privilege, there should not be any difficulty in this regard.

Cases could still be referred to the Committee on Standards and Privileges if it is felt that parliamentary sanctions are also needed or to the prosecuting authorities if the offence of making false declarations may have been committed.

*Lay members of the Speaker's Committee*

The Committee recommends that

"the Speaker's Committee on the independent regulator should include three lay members drawn from outside Parliament who have not previously been MPs or peers. They should be chosen through the official public appointments process and formally approved by the House"

(Recommendation 48).

The Government propose to bring forward legislation to provide for the appointment of lay members of the Speaker's Committee.

*General duty to act openly and transparently*

The Committee recommends that the independent regulator should be placed under a general duty to act openly and transparently, to give reasons for any revisions to the expenses scheme, and to report, and take account of, the views of the general public as well as the House of Commons (Recommendation 49).

Section 5(4) of the Parliamentary Standards Act requires the IPSA to consult a number of people and bodies in preparing an allowances scheme, including "any person the IPSA considers appropriate".

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 already applies to the IPSA, including a duty to issue a publication scheme.

The Government are however content to bring forward amendments to the 2009 Act to add an additional requirement that the IPSA must give reasons for its revisions to the allowances scheme, to give reasons for adopting a determination in respect of MPs' pay, and to consult the general public. (See also response to recommendations 41 and 60.)

*Sunset provisions*

The Committee recommends that

"the sunset provisions in the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 should be repealed"

(Recommendation 53).

The sunset provisions, set out in section 15 of the Act, were inserted in the House of Lords. They deal with the code of conduct on financial interests and the position of the independent commissioner for investigations. As both the role of the IPSA in relation to the code and the commissioner are to be repealed, the sunset clause has no further purpose and therefore can be similarly repealed.

*Publication of claims*

The Committee recommends that

"the independent regulator should continue to publish, at least quarterly, each individual claim for reimbursement made by MPs with accompanying receipts or documentary evidence. The information published should not be confined to claims actually reimbursed"

(Recommendation 60).

As part of the proposed amendments to the 2009 Act to give effect to recommendations 41 and 49, which require the IPSA to act transparently, the Government will bring forward legislation to place on the IPSA the duty to publish claims made and allowances paid, with such details as it considers appropriate. The 2009 Act already requires IPSA to determine procedures for the circumstances in which findings of investigations should be published. (See also response to recommendations 41 and 49.)

There are three further recommendations which would require legislation to achieve, but on which it has been accepted that immediate legislation is not necessary.

*Publication of electoral candidates' financial interests*

The Committee recommends that

"all candidates at parliamentary elections should publish, at nomination, a register of interests including the existence of other paid jobs and whether they intend to continue to hold them if elected. The Ministry of Justice should issue guidance on this in time for the next general election. Following the election, consideration should be given as to whether the process should become a statutory part of the nomination process"

(Recommendation 37).

The Ministry of Justice is working on the guidance. The Ministry of Justice will discuss the approach with the Electoral Commission and others as appropriate before guidance is issued, in time for the next general election. A decision about whether to implement this on a statutory basis will, as the Committee suggests, be taken in the next Parliament.

*Hon. Members who are members of devolved legislatures*

The Committee recommends that the practice of permitting a Westminster MP simultaneously to sit in a devolved legislature should be brought to an end, ideally by the time of the elections to the three devolved legislatures for May 2011 (Recommendation 40)

This is not strictly an issue about MPs' allowances. The Committee recommends that this provision should be in place by May 2011 and the Government will consult interested parties before implementing it in the next Parliament.

*Term of office of IPSA Chair*

The CSPL recommends that

"the chair of the new regulatory body should be appointed for a single, non-renewable five year term. The other members of the new body should in principle be appointed on the same basis, but some flexibility may need to be shown in relation to those appointed in the first round" (Recommendation 47).

Paragraph 4(1) of schedule 1 to the 2009 Act provides for the chair of the IPSA to be appointed "for a fixed term not exceeding five years". Paragraph 4(3) provides that "a person who has held office as a member of the IPSA (whether as the chair or an ordinary member) may be re-appointed as a member once only, for a further period (whether consecutive or not) not exceeding three years".

The CSPL acknowledges the need for flexibility in relation to the first round of appointments. The Government accept the principle of the recommendation, but believes that amendments to the legislation are not required now. They could be made at a later date if still required.

## TRANSPORT

### Autumn Performance Report 2009

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan):** My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

I have today published my Department's Autumn Performance Report for 2009 (CM7737). Copies have been laid before Parliament and placed in the House Libraries.

The report provides Parliament with details of progress on performance against the departmental strategic objectives, value for money and public service agreements, using data available up to November 2009.

### Consultation on HGV Testing Exemptions

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark):** The Department for Transport has today issued a consultation document on our proposals to remove or modify some of the exemptions from the statutory annual roadworthiness testing scheme which currently apply to certain categories of heavy goods vehicles.

I have placed copies of the document in the House Library.

### Local Transport Act 2008:Quality Contracts Schemes

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan):** The Local Transport Act 2008 includes provisions designed to make bus quality contracts schemes—the London-style model of bus contracts—a more realistic option for local transport authorities throughout England and Wales. The Government are today announcing that these provisions will come into force, in England, on 11 January 2010.

Supporting regulations will be laid before Parliament within the next few days and statutory guidance, applying in England from 11 January 2010, is being issued today. The Government are also today beginning the process of recruiting members of a panel of persons from which members of QCS boards will be appointed. QCS boards are independent boards with a remit to provide an opinion on whether proposed quality contracts schemes in England meet the statutory public interest criteria, and on whether due process has been followed.

Copies of the statutory guidance, the Government's response to the consultation and the recruitment pack for QCS board panel members are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will also be available on the Department for Transport's website.

### Airport Economic Regulation

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark):** My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

In March, the Government consulted on a number of proposals designed to modernise the framework for the airport economic regulatory regime and put passengers at its heart. The review primarily seeks to ensure that economic regulation improves the passenger experience and encourages timely and appropriate investment.

Having considered responses to the consultation, I intend to introduce as soon as parliamentary time will allow a package of reforms that:

Modernise the statutory duties of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in this area. The Government will replace the CAA's existing duties with a single primary duty to promote the interests of end consumers of passenger and freight services at airports. In order to provide clarity about the additional factors the CAA need to take into account when making decision, the Government will also be introducing new subordinate duties.

Introduce a new licensing regime that is flexible and targeted. The new regime gives the regulator sanctions and enforcement powers to incentivise licensee compliance.

Introduce a new framework of merit based appeals to ensure the regulator is accountable for the decisions it makes.

Enhance passenger representation within the aviation sector. To ensure that passengers have an independent and influential advocate with an end-to-end journey perspective, the Government will introduce legislation to make Passenger Focus the passenger representative body for aviation. Passenger Focus will build on the firm foundations established by the Air Transport Users Council.

Promote the financial resilience of major airports. In October, this year I brought forward the announcement on financial resilience in order to provide as much certainty as possible for the industry and its investors, and support sustained investment. In this announcement I said that the Government intended to consult on two further financial aspects and this consultation is published today.

A few responses to the consultation raised the importance of connecting regional economies to London airports and international destinations. The Government recognise this issue and will commission research to gather further evidence.

This package of reforms is intended to provide a modern and flexible economic regulatory framework for airports which I believe reflects best practice in other regulated regimes and promotes the interests of passengers, investment, as well as the principles of Better Regulation.

I also intend to consult on further proposals to update the regulatory framework for aviation.

The Government commissioned Sir Joseph Pilling to carry out a strategic review of the Civil Aviation Authority to ensure that it remained able to meet current and future challenges. He described the CAA as a "highly successful organisation" and concluded that it remained appropriate to have a specialist aviation regulator, with a broad range of functions from safety to economic regulation. But he also identified that changes were needed to modernise the CAA's legislative and governance framework. In particular, he considered it important that the CAA's role should be to safeguard the public interest, and he recommended that we make it absolutely clear in the legislation that the CAA's primary responsibility is to the public rather than the aviation industry.

I am consulting on proposals giving the CAA a clear statutory focus, consistent with our international obligations and aligned with Better Regulation principles, by assigning new objectives to the organisation. These will apply to most of the CAA's functions and will ensure that the CAA focuses its attention on pursuing the interests of consumers and seeking environmental improvements while maintaining a high standard of safety.

To support the CAA in delivering its objectives, I am also proposing to give powers to enable it to obtain relevant information and make arrangements for that information to be made publically available where this is in the interests of consumers or those affected by aviation. The CAA would only be able to use this power where it could demonstrate that the benefits of publishing information outweighed the costs.

I also want to see the CAA's governance and enforcement arrangements aligned with modern regulatory practice. I am proposing to give the CAA access to a range of civil sanctions, which will address concerns previously expressed about the disproportionate and inappropriate nature of criminal sanctions for certain offences.

We have looked at financial protection for air passengers following the failure of the XL Leisure Group in 2008. This highlighted the need to reform the ATOL scheme which provides reimbursement and repatriation in the event of insolvency.

We are committed by European legislation to provide financial protection for passengers on package holidays. We decided in 2005 not to extend this to all flights. Although that remains the right decision, the concept of a package holiday has become blurred by the way many holidays are sold through mix-and-match components. Consumers must be able to make informed choices. My objective now is to create a clear boundary of protection, and this objective is shared by the travel trade. The consultation puts forward several options for this.

I am also consulting on a number of measures to rationalise the process for making airport byelaws. The main aims are to modernise and streamline the existing airport byelaw-making process and increase the level of consultation with interested parties during the preparation of airport byelaws.

The proposals in this consultation will provide strategic direction for the CAA and help it regulate the aviation industry in tune with modern needs.

Copies of the decision document, both consultation documents and associated publications have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Equality 2025

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw):** In line with good practice on non-departmental public bodies, the Office for Disability Issues commissioned an internal review of 'Equality 2025: the UK Advisory Network on Disability Equality' in June 2009. The review recognised that Equality 2025's remit of offering Government advice and expertise on disability equality issues remains valid and recommended it should continue unchanged. The review also recommended developing Equality 2025's strategic role as an 'expert group' and streamlining its size. I have broadly accepted these recommendations and officials are now working towards their implementation. The full list of review recommendations is available on the Office for Disability Issues' website at: www.officefordisability.gov.uk.

I am pleased to announce that the Office for Disability Issues intends to publish the report of the review of Equality 2025 in the first half of 2010. The document will be available on the Office for Disability Issues' website and will also be placed in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 14 December 2009*

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### EU Competitiveness Council (3-4 December)

**The Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property (Mr. David Lammy):** The EU Competitiveness Council took place in Brussels on 3 and 4 December 2009. The following is a summary of those discussions.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs, represented the UK on 3 December on EU consumer issues, while on 4 December I represented the UK on EU patents issues and the Minister responsible for Business and Regulatory Reform, my hon. Friend the Member for Wrexham (Ian Lucas), attended the ministerial lunchtime debate on General Motors/Opel. Andy Lebrecht, the UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, represented the UK when a Minister was not in attendance.

On 3 December the main areas of discussion were research and consumer affairs. On research, the UK argued for a more sophisticated approach to setting targets for the level and impact of R and D investment. Many countries agreed, however the Commission felt abandoning the current 3 per cent. headline target would send a negative signal to business and research communities.

There was strong backing for any EU Lisbon strategy successor to encourage better links between researchers and innovators across Europe. The UK emphasised the need to lever more private sector investment in innovation. There was also broad agreement to reduce bureaucracy for applicants and participants in EU R and D framework programmes.

Conclusions on a new joint European research programme on Alzheimer's and for other research items were adopted. However decisions to reform crest, the high level group on EU science policy issues were delayed until 2010.

When debating the draft Consumer Rights Directive, the UK was keen to see fully harmonised solutions across the whole directive that were acceptable to the majority of member states, and supported harmonisation where it could be shown that divergent rules create barriers to trade, though not at the expense of important consumer protections, such as the right to reject faulty goods and receive a full refund. Discussions on the draft directive will continue under the Spanish EU presidency in the first half of 2010.

On 4 December agreement was reached in principle on a general approach on a community patent regulation and Council conclusions regarding a European patent court, patent fees and partnership working between the European Patent Office and national patent offices. The presidency, Commission and several member states acknowledged there would still be difficult discussions ahead before there was full completion, but the UK said this step was long overdue and it was vital to move forward.

At a ministerial lunchtime discussion, Ministers heard an update from General Motors/Opel on its plans for European restructuring. There were no formal conclusions. No agreement was made on the proposal for a European private company statute. It will now be for the Commission and future EU presidencies to decide if and when to come back to this.

Ministers agreed Council conclusions after debating eco-efficient industry policy as a contribution to the revised EU Lisbon strategy. The Commission felt the EU Competitiveness Council had a vital role to play in future deliberations on a Lisbon strategy successor, and these should take account of areas such as climate change, demography, and finding the right balance between competitiveness and high quality jobs.

The UK stressed the importance of the EU being competitive at a global level and of strengthening the EU single market. The UK also stated that the temporary state aid framework should end as planned in December 2010, and that the EU should exploit and invest more in R and D and innovation to ensure a competitive, modern and diverse industrial base in Europe. Many delegations expressed a desire for a more powerful voice for the Competitiveness Council and considered it important to give greater priority to green technologies.

For other items, conclusions on better regulation were adopted as drafted. UK and Malta tabled a joint minute statement on gambling which expressed concerns over the presidency progress report. They requested no further discussion in Council as the current Commission had no intention to legislate.

Under any other business points, the Commission reported on the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative. It was felt unlikely this would ever be profit making, but would however be strategically beneficial for Europe. When giving a progress report on the construction products directive, the Commission singled out the simplified procedures for small to medium enterprises (SMEs) as important in reducing administrative burdens. The Commission also updated the Council on the recent Google books settlement.

Spain presented priorities for their forthcoming EU presidency (January to June 2010) which will be innovation, standardisation and business and SME competitiveness. Future industrial policy would be considered in the context of the crisis. There would be a new EU strategy on electric vehicles, to be discussed at the informal Competitiveness Council on 8 and 9 February in San Sebastian, Spain. The presidency would promote socially responsible tourism, and address the EU's target of a 25 per cent. reduction in administrative burdens by 2012, as well as implementation of the EU services directive.

### Telecoms Council (18 December)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Stephen Timms):** I am pleased to confirm the agenda items for which BIS has responsibility at the forthcoming Transport, Telecommunications and (Telecoms Council) in Brussels on 18 December 2009.

There are only three substantive agenda items, the first of which is a televised policy debate on the adoption of council conclusions on the "*Post i-2010 strategy"-towards an open, green and competitive knowledge society*". These conclusions are member states, consolidated views on what policies and workstreams, should be in the successor to the current i-2010 framework (i-2010 is Europe's ICT agenda). The UK welcomes and supports the adoption of these conclusions, as ICT is now seen by all member states as one of the most important components of a state's economic "armoury". They are in line with the Digital Britain report and also with the priorities that the UK submitted to the recent EU Commissions public consultation on a successor to i-2010. They will be taken account by the Commission in crafting their new ICT strategy, due to be adopted in the first half of 2010.

In my intervention (we expect nearly all member states to make comments) I will welcome the opportunity to debate this essential issue, and as per my recent letters to both Houses on i-2010, I will suggest that a new ICT strategy framework, should now focus on an agenda that delivers greater benefit for businesses and consumers; should be economically focused, and that the Commission should move away from regulation towards incentivising take up and investment in new networks/technologies, particularly carbon reducing technologies.

The next item on the agenda is the adoption of "*Council conclusions on "Communication from the Commission - transforming the digital dividend into social benefits and economic growth*" This item concerns the members states views on this communication, which outlined a set of proposals for a common approach to the digital dividend in Europe. (The digital dividend is the radio spectrum that is released when member states switch from analogue to digital television). We do not expect a table round on this item, but if there is a discussion, I will intervene to note my support for the conclusions and their encouragement to member states to complete their switchover programmes during 2012. I will also emphasise our preference for a non-legislative approach to the use of the 800MHz band for mobile broadband services.

The last substantive item on the agenda is the adoption of Council resolution on "*Collaborative European approach on network and information security*". The resolution (on which there are no reserves) notes the Commissions efforts in 2009 to promote action on critical information infrastructure protection and it also looks forward to the Commission's forthcoming proposals on network and information security priorities and the future of ENISA. I will be intervening (if there is a discussion) to note that we welcome this resolution and that the UK has an open mind about the future of ENISA and look forward to the Commission's proposals on this matter.

The Swedish presidency are also hosting a ministerial lunch, where member states will debate, informally, the issue of competition and investment in "Next Generation Networks". This discussion will start with a presentation, by UK spectrum expert, Martin Cave and I will emphasise the importance of maintaining (and indeed enhancing) competition, as we move towards adoption of next generation networks. In particular, I will stress the need for competitive access to new networks across the EU.

In addition to the three substantive items, there are two further items for which BIS has responsibility listed under any other business. The first of these will be an update from the Council presidency on internet governance including a report on the recent Internet Governance Forum that took place in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt.

Finally, the incoming Spanish presidency will present their work programme for the next six months, which begins on 1 January 2009.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Children's Plan

**The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls):** I am today announcing, on the second anniversary of the Children's Plan, the publication of the "Children's Plan 2 Years On: a progress report", as well as both the publication of an independent assessment of the impact of the commercial world on children's wellbeing, and the appointment of Sarah Thane CBE to develop proposals about the regulation of child performance.

*Children's Plan 2 Years On: A progress report*

This report demonstrates how the Children's Plan, which puts the child at the centre of all our policy and provision, has significantly changed children's services to the great benefit of children, young people and their families, and all those who work with them. As a result, the Children's Plan has significantly improved outcomes for children and young people. It can be accessed at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/childrensplan.

As well as celebrating what has already been achieved, today's "Children's Plan 2 Years On" report shows the huge advances that are made for children when families are supported, and whole communities are enabled to work together to overcome the challenges they face.

The report explains that over the next five years we will:

*Introduce new guarantees setting out what children, young people and their parents can expect from services* through: the new pupil and parent guarantees underpinned by legislation in the Children, Schools and Families Bill; the September guarantee and, in 2010, the January guarantee to a suitable place in education post-16; and setting out what support families can expect from the early years onward in a Green Paper concerning families and relationships.

*Further professionalise the workforce* across all children's services. In the early year's workforce we will have better qualified practitioners, increasingly with graduate leadership; within social work we have accepted the recommendations of the social work taskforce to ensure children, young people and their families receive the highest standards of care; and we will develop a professional status for the youth sector.

*Develop and support the best leaders* by investing in developing talent and giving our leaders the flexibility to innovate.

*Be tough on services that fail to deliver*. The early success of national challenge has shown what can be achieved when support and appropriate intervention is targeted at underperforming schools through local authorities. It is equally important that we intervene where local authorities are failing to deliver children's services to an acceptable standard.

We are committed to continued investment in the services and other activities required to fulfil the ambitions set out in the Children's Plan and are keen to move to the next stage of reform. But now more than ever, we need to ensure we are getting real value for money from our investment. In this tougher fiscal climate, we need to continue supporting and working with those who deliver services, including those on the frontline, in combining investment and efficiency savings to meet spending requirements, and to deliver our guarantees to pupils, parents and school leavers. We must remain focused on meeting the challenges facing all those working with children. Through a collective effort we believe we can go even further and can move 21st century children's services from being good to outstanding, making England the best place in the world to grow up.

I am also pleased to announce the launch of a new blog site as part of the Children's Plan village at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/childrensplan. The website includes case studies and video showing how the Children's Plan has made a positive difference to children and young people, families and practitioners over the past two years.

### *The Impact of the Commercial World on Children's Wellbeing*

The Government announced in the Children's Plan our intention to "commission an independent assessment of the impact of the commercial world on young people" and later that David Buckingham, Professor of Education at the Institute of Education, would lead this work, supported by a panel of independent experts.

Professor Buckingham and his team conducted an extensive review of the available evidence and spoke to a large number of stakeholders representing the broad spectrum of opinion on this subject. I am today publishing the resultant report. It reflects the fact that Professor Buckingham was asked, first and foremost, to bring together and critically assess all the available research and evidence that exists on this vast subject.

Professor Buckingham's report raises a number of far-ranging issues, from the need to promote greater media literacy to the regulation of new media and the need to safeguard children's television as part of a broadcaster's responsibility to provide public service content. I am very grateful to Professor Buckingham and his colleagues for such a thorough piece of work.

The key messages from this comprehensive piece of work are that:

The children's commercial market is already large, is continuing to grow and is becoming increasingly sophisticated in its activities, in particular through new media. This trend seems set to continue;

The children's market does not exist in isolation. Notwithstanding considerable social change in recent decades, parents continue to play the pivotal role in how children are affected by the market, although peers also have a considerable influence, especially as children grow into adolescence;

So far as the impact of the commercial world on children is concerned the evidence shows a complex picture from which it is not possible to draw simple conclusions about cause or effect. The evidence does not validate either the notion that commercialisation is creating a 'toxic childhood', nor the notion that children are highly sophisticated consumers able to navigate with ease through a benign market;

Children are also increasingly aware of commercial forces in public places and in schools, and there is significant commercial activity going on within schools.

Professor Buckingham's thoughtful report requires a considered response, and we have decided that this should comprise the following elements:

We will take action to ensure children and their parents are supported to improve their media literacy skills, especially relating to new media.

As a first necessary step towards this we will shortly establish a panel to assess the place of media literacy within the school curriculum, to help schools to enhance the media literacy of their pupils. We believe our overriding aim should be to ensure children are safe while enjoying the many opportunities that both old and new media have to offer.

We will also develop materials to help parents guide their children and help them deal with commercial messages transmitted via old and new media working with the Digital Participation consortia set up following the Digital Britain White Paper.

It is important that the regulatory framework keeps pace with technical developments and the subsequent new marketing techniques that might be directed at children. In response to these issues the independent advertising regulators recently undertook an extensive public consultation exercise to inform the updating of both the broadcast and non-broadcast media codes. The revised codes will be published early in the New Year.

We are also working with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department of Health to ensure that the wellbeing of children is given priority, particularly in areas such as food promotion. The chief medical officer is planning this week to issue guidelines on the health effects and risks of children drinking alcohol. Working closely with industry, we will look at developing a set of voluntary principles to underpin all forms of marketing and promotion of food and drink to children, particularly where established mandatory self-regulatory and co-regulatory regimes do not exist. We also welcome the fact that the Internet Advisory Bureau has developed a set of good practice principles for online behavioural advertising. These came into force in September 2009.

We want there to be strong links and productive partnerships between schools and businesses, as illustrated in "Building Stronger Partnerships", published in December 2008. The best practice principles relating to the commercial aspects of these partnerships have been in place for nine years. We have reviewed these with businesses and school partners and we now plan to update them to provide stronger guidance about the characteristics of good partnerships and how these are best formed, so both schools and businesses can benefit. The new charity, the Education and Employers Taskforce, will be doing more to co-ordinate and promote constructive joint working between schools and employers. It has already published some initial online guidance.

We recognise how important public service broadcasting (PSB) is to children. Professor Buckingham's report found that older children are relatively poorly served by PSB and made it clear that there is a need to encourage high quality UK-sourced, original PSB content for children. We strongly agree and we welcome the BBC executive's recent decision to increase their budget for children's content, and the new remit for Channel 4.

### *Child Internet Safety*

We have also launched the *UK Child Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) strategy*—the first UK strategy on child internet safety and, we believe, the first strategy of its kind anywhere in the world led and owned by an unprecedented coalition of Government, industry, charities, law enforcement and many others united in working together to help children stay safe online. And we have launched the first stage of the "Click Clever Click Safe" public awareness campaign with our online version of the green cross code: "Zip it, Block it, Flag it". We want to see the digital code become as familiar as "Stop, Look, Listen".

For the first time, key players from industry, charities and Government will be independently reviewed against standards to keep children safe online. Online safety is already a compulsory part of the national curriculum for secondary schools and is also being taught in many primary schools. From September 2011, online safety will be a compulsory part of the curriculum from age five.

*The regulation of child performance*

As Professor Buckingham's report makes clear, the commercial world offers children many exciting opportunities in terms of entertainment, creativity, communication, learning and cultural experience, but it also carries some risks. Both issues can be seen in the specific context of children's participation in television, film and theatre performances.

Our starting principle is that performing is good for children because of the opportunities it offers them to develop their skills and talents, to have these recognised and praised and to develop more self-confidence as a result. Performing is often highly enjoyable for children, while also giving great pleasure to many people beyond children's families and friends.

As a country, we want to continue celebrating the brilliant performances of children in stage shows like Billy Elliott or programmes like Britain's Got Talent, and it is right that our talented children should continue aspiring to appear on those stages.

We also benefit as a country from the careful and sensitive insight into children's lives given by films like Fish Tank or documentary programmes like My First Year.

But where many parents, educators and Ministers become concerned is when programme makers seem determined to keep pushing the boundaries of what is acceptable, to provide shock value for viewers and push up ratings, rather than to do anything positive or meaningful for our children, our culture or our country.

The relevant legislation is set out in the Children and Young Persons Act 1963 and the 1968 regulations which relate to it. This regulatory regime applies across a huge range of performance activities, from local dramatics and talent shows to popular television programmes and films.

There are a number of difficulties with the 1968 regulations, and also the primary legislation on which they depend. For example, the legislation is highly complex; is interpreted very differently in different places; and is hard to apply to contemporary broadcasting. Concerns have also been raised that the regulations are often misapplied, or sometimes not applied at all. Some have also asserted that the current regulations do not reflect current thinking about the nature of the biggest risks to children, or children's greater maturity today compared to 50 years ago.

Questions have also been raised about whether there is sufficient information and guidance currently available to parents who are considering agreeing to their children taking part in performance activities, or indeed to all of those putting on performances, and of parents.

Increasing technological convergence also means that there is a need to consider these issues in a way that takes fully into account the fact that the boundaries between different forms of communication are blurring—those between television and the internet especially. Unless a modern framework is developed which consciously looks ahead there is a serious risk of it being rapidly overtaken by technological change.

Questions have therefore arisen about the extent to which the current regulatory approach is still fit for purpose today. My Department has lead responsibility for the regulation of child performance. Earlier this year, I asked officials to examine the 1968 regulations with the aim of updating them. The results were discussed informally over the summer with interested parties. These discussions made it clear that simply updating the existing regulations would probably not create the kind of approach that we believe we now need: that is, one that protects children effectively and proportionately from the risk of harm, enables them to make the most of the many exciting performance opportunities now available, and reflects and respects the right to freedom of expression and editorial independence.

I and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport have therefore decided jointly to commission a piece of work to explore these issues in greater detail, with a view to deciding what a modern, effective and proportionate set of arrangements for the regulation of child performance should look like, and we have appointed Sarah Thane, CBE, to lead it. Sarah Thane is a former chair of the Royal Television Society, a former adviser to Ofcom on regulation and content, and a member of the governing board of Teachers TV, and therefore brings considerable, relevant experience and expertise to the task.

Sarah Thane will engage and work with all those with an inte[illegible] area, including organisations representing children [illegible] parents; children's charities; broadcasters, programme and film makers; representatives of local arts and drama organisations; theatre organisations and local authorities, among others. Sarah Thane will report her conclusions to us by the end of February 2010.

## Vetting and Barring Scheme

**The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls):** I am today publishing Sir Roger Singleton's report on the vetting and barring scheme, "Drawing the Line", together with the Government's response. I am placing copies in the Libraries of both Houses.

Parliament legislated for the new scheme in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and it received overwhelming support. We recognised then, as we do now, that it is essential to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are properly safeguarded and that we do everything we reasonably can to protect them from those who seek to do them harm.

Our aim throughout has been to develop an approach which is proportionate, balanced and effective, with the scheme operating in a way which is neither burdensome nor bureaucratic, or off-putting to potential volunteers in children's settings—while still meeting the concerns of parents.

We have found much support for the scheme as we have taken this work forward through a process of extensive consultation with those who run services and activities for children.

It has always been our intention that mutually agreed and responsible arrangements made between parents and friends for the care of their children should be excluded from the vetting and barring scheme. That principle is central to the 2006 Act.

However, some significant concerns have been expressed about the interpretation of one particular aspect of the scheme; the degree of contact with children which should trigger the requirement to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). Striking the right balance on where to draw the line that separates those situations that should be covered from those that should be excluded has undoubtedly been a difficult judgement.

In my letter of 14 September to my hon. Friend the Member for Huddersfield (Mr. Sheerman), chair of the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee, I said that Baroness Morgan and I had asked Sir Roger Singleton to check that the Government have drawn the line in the right place on this issue.

We are very grateful to Sir Roger for his very thorough work on this over the last three months, during which he has consulted a wide range of key individuals and organisations, including relevant unions, inspectorates, voluntary organisations, faith groups and local charities and clubs. His work was also informed by a survey of some 1,800 parents carried out by the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations.

I am therefore pleased to confirm that the Government welcome and accept all 10 of Sir Roger's recommendations to make sure that the vetting and barring scheme draws the line in the right place, protecting children without getting involved in private arrangements between parents and friends.

Taken together, we believe these recommendations strike the right balance between the need to protect the vulnerable on the one hand, and the importance of having a scheme which is proportionate and which is based on some fundamental guiding principles, consistently applied, on the other.

Sir Roger's report is based on two fundamental guiding principles which underpin both his overall approach and all his specific recommendations and which also underpin the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

The first principle is that where parents exercise their own judgment about who should care for their children that is entirely a private matter in which the scheme should not interfere. But where parents give that choice to an organisation, such as a school, club or group and cease to be able to make a personal decision about which adult provides the care or teaching etc, then registration should be required, subject to how often the contact takes place between the adults and the children.

The second principle is that the statutory requirements laid down should go no further than is necessary for the safety and protection of children, At the same time, it is also necessary, and appropriate, to recognise that some organisations will choose to require registration in situations of exceptional vulnerability, whether or not the frequency test is met; for example, if the person will be expected to provide intimate personal care for a severely disabled child. This allows for a degree of local flexibility and recognises everyone's responsibility for safeguarding.

As Sir Roger notes in his report, public misunderstanding has led to concerns that the scheme risks intruding inappropriately into family life. It is not and it never will be this Government's policy that this should happen. We therefore strongly welcome the recommendations in Sir Roger's report, which make this absolutely and unambiguously clear.

The Government welcomes Sir Roger's recommended adjustments to the scheme's requirements which include:

> Where organisations such as schools, clubs or groups make the decisions as to which adults should work with their children then the requirement to register with the VBS should apply, subject to the frequent and intensive contact provisions;
>
> The frequent contact test should be met if the work with children takes place once a week or more (at present the test is if activity happens as often as once a month). This covers regular repetitive activity;
>
> The intensive contact test should be met if the work takes place on four days in one month or more or overnight. This change will make the scheme easier to understand and put into practice, since at present the test is three times in every 30 days or overnight. This covers the circumstances where there is contact over a short space of time which is not necessarily repeated;
>
> Individuals who go into different schools or similar settings to work with different groups of children should not be required to register unless their contact with the same children is frequent or intensive;
>
> The minimum age of registration for young people who engage in regulated activity as part of their continuing education will be reviewed. The Government will change the rules so that 16, 17 and 18-year-olds in education will not be required to register;
>
> Overseas visitors bringing their own groups of children to the UK e.g. to international camps or the Olympics, should have a three months exemption from the requirement to register for the work they do with the children or vulnerable adults they have brought to the UK; and
>
> Exchange visits lasting less than 28 days, where overseas parents accept the responsibility for the selection of the host family, should be regarded as private arrangements and will not require registration.

We believe that these adjustments to the scheme are proportionate and that they will be supported by parents, employers and by those who work or volunteer with children and vulnerable adults. The changes they will bring about are faithful to the two fundamental principles of allowing parents to make their own private arrangements without interference, and ensuring that requirements set by the state do the minimum necessary to protect children and the vulnerable.

Sir Roger's report also invites the Government to undertake further work in three areas:

> To review the registration requirements for self-employed private health practitioners. As the law currently stands, when a patient attends one of these practitioners it will be a private arrangement and therefore although the practitioners may register with the scheme, there will be no requirement for them to do so. However, the intimate nature of medical treatment may suggest that these practitioners should be registered. The Department of Health will lead on this review in collaboration with my Department and the health care regulators;
>
> To review whether there is a continuing need for the separate class of work with different requirements, defined in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 as "controlled activity". Controlled activity refers to certain tightly defined ancillary and support activities, mainly in FE colleges, NHS settings and local authorities. Far fewer people are potentially covered by "controlled activity" than by "regulated activity". Sir Roger invites the Government to take stock of whether controlled activity is a necessary part of the scheme. My Department and the Department of Health will take this review forward together, in collaboration with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills;
>
> To review the statutory requirements, and the Government's advice, for CRB disclosures on those who work with vulnerable groups when they are already registered with the ISA. We had already undertaken to carry out this work once the scheme had settled in.

The Government will take forward these three reviews in the New Year.

The changes recommended by Sir Roger will impact on the numbers of people who will have to register. Initial estimates by the Home Office indicate that Sir Roger's recommendations will lead to approximately 2 million fewer individuals needing to register with the vetting and barring scheme. This suggests that the new figure of those who will have to register with the scheme lies in the range of 9 million to 9.5 million. The Government will publish a revised impact assessment shortly.

Sir Roger rightly underlines in his report the need for renewed efforts to communicate the details and safeguarding benefits of the scheme. The Government will therefore commission further communications activity to help explain the scheme. We will also act swiftly to dispel any myths and misunderstandings about the scheme with updates to the briefing notes that are on our website and which I have sent to hon. Members. The Government will also reflect all of Sir Roger's recommendations in the full guidance on the scheme that we intend to publish in the New Year.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Connecting Communities

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham):** On 14 October, I informed Parliament about my plan to reinvigorate and connect with those communities that are feeling the pressure from recession most acutely and ensure they are well placed to share fully in future prosperity and emerge stronger and more cohesive.

I can today inform Parliament that I am extending that programme to a further 85 neighbourhoods across 54 local authorities, adding to the 27 neighbourhoods across 21 local authorities that I announced in October.

The expansion of the programme means over 100 communities are now getting targeted help in addressing local issues. The package of support will enable local people to influence, shape and change policies on issues which really matter in their community. It will help to make sure that those people who are feeling the pressure the most are getting a bigger say and a fair deal.

Practical actions delivered on estates and streets will focus on making changes that address local people's concerns, reconnect them with jobs and tackle head on issues—real and perceived—which, left neglected, can prove fertile territory for extremism and those who would divide our communities.

I can also announce that around £2 million of funding is being directed at activity to support community champions, council staff and councillors that will help them develop the skills and confidence to address local issues head on. This funding complements extra support announced recently for around 130 local authority areas to tackle antisocial behaviour with training and support available to front-line staff and community champions.

*Second round areas*

| *REGION* | *LOCAL AUTHORITY* | *PLACE* |
|---|---|---|
| *North East (7)* | Newcastle-Upon-Tyne City Council | 1. Elswick |
| | South Tyneside MBC | 2. Central Jarrow |
| | Middlesbrough Council | 3. Thorntree |
| | Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council | 4. Stockton Town Centre<br>5. Newtown |
| | Hartlepool Borough Council | 6. Dyke House, Stranton, Grange |
| | Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council | 7. Southbank and Grangetown |
| | Durham County Council | 8. Spennymoor |
| *North West (5)* | Stockport MBC | 9. Offerton |
| | Rochdale MBC | 10. Kirkholt |
| | Oldham MBC | 11. Waterhead |
| | Knowsley MBC | 12. Page Moss |
| | Lancaster Council | 13. Skerton |
| *Yorkshire and Humber (6)* | Barnsley MBC | 14. Darton West<br>15. Dearne<br>16.. Athersley and New Lodge (received funding in wave I) |
| | East Riding of Yorkshire Council | 17. Goole |
| | North Lincolnshire Council | 18. Winterton |
| | North East Lincolnshire Council | 19. Fiveways |
| | Leeds City Council | 20. Gipton |
| | Rotherham MBC | 21.East Maltby<br>22. Dinnington<br>23.East Maltby |
| *East (2)* | Great Yarmouth Borough Council | 24. Nelson |
| | Thurrock Council | 25. Tilbury Riverside and St Chad's |

*Second round areas*

| *REGION* | *LOCAL AUTHORITY* | *PLACE* |
|---|---|---|
| *East Midlands (7)* | South Holland District Council | 26. Holbeach<br>27. Long Sutton<br>28. Sutton Bridge |
| | Bassetlaw District Council | 29. Harworth |
| | Leicester City Council | 30. Eyres Monsell |
| | Amber Valley Borough Council | 31. Aldercar and Langley Mill |
| | Northampton Borough Council | 32. Thorplands |
| | Gedling Borough Council | 33. Killisick |
| | N W Leicestershire District Council | 34. Measham |
| *West Midlands (6)* | Stoke-on-Trent City Council | 35. Bentilee |
| | Birmingham City Council | 36. Shard End |
| | Herefordshire County Council | 37. Newton Farm and Golden Post (Belmont Ward) |
| | Sandwell MBC | 38. Friar Park<br>39. Tibbington Estate, Princes End |
| | Walsall MBC | 40. Birchills |
| | Wolverhampton MBC | 41.Bilston East |
| *South East (8)* | Hastings Borough Council | 42. Greater Hollington and Ore Valley |
| | Brighton and Hove City Council | 43. Whitehawk,<br>44. Moulescoomb and Woodingdean |
| | Crawley Borough Council | 45. Bewbush and Ifield |
| | Rushmoor Borough Council | 46. Prospect Estate |
| | Southampton City Council | 47. Bitterne (area around Sullivan Road, Sholing)<br>48. Weston<br>49. Millbrook |
| | Wycombe District Council | 50. Castlefield |
| | Oxford City Council | 51. Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys |
| | Thanet District Council | 52. Cliftonville West and Margate Central |
| *South West (2)* | Bath and NE Somerset Council | 53. London Road, Snowhill<br>54. Queens Road, Keynesham |
| | Bristol City Council | 55. St George East and West, Brislington East<br>56. Southmead<br>57. Whitchurch<br>58. Hillfields |
| *London (12)* | Barking & Dagenham | 59. Eastbury<br>60. Village<br>61. Valence<br>62. Parsloes<br>63. Goresbrook<br>64. Alibon |
| | Barnet, London Borough of | 65. Coppetts<br>66. High Barnet |
| | Croydon, London Borough of | 67. New Addington<br>68. Fieldway |
| | Enfield, London Borough of | 69. Chase<br>70. Enfield Highway<br>71. Enfield Lock<br>72. Ponders End<br>73. Southbury and Turkey Street |
| | Greenwich, London Borough of | 74. Brook, Page and Corelli estates |
| | Havering, London Borough of | 75. Mawneys and Elm Park |
| | Hillingdon, London Borough of | 76. Yeading |
| | Hounslow, London Borough of | 77. Bedfont, Feltham North and West, Hanworth and Hanworth Park |
| | Kensington and Chelsea, Royal Borough of | 78. North Kensington |
| | Redbridge, London Borough of | 79. Hainault |
| | Richmond upon Thames, London Borough of | 80. Ham<br>81.Heathfield<br>82. Hampton North (Nursery Lands)<br>83. Castelnau<br>84. Mortlake |
| | Sutton, London Borough of | 85. Sutton Northern Wards: St Helier, Wandle Valley and The Wrythe |

## DEFENCE

### War Pension Committees

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones):** I am today announcing a change to the role of the existing War Pensions Committees. This follows a review of their terms of reference and a consultation with organisations representing serving personnel and the ex-service community.

The new committees will be known as 'Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees' and will initially be piloted across the country for a period of 12 months, with a review point at six months. There will be 13 committees established across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, made up of volunteers from a cross-section of the local community. Members will include health, social care and legal professionals with an interest in ensuring the best possible service is provided to veterans and their families.

Their role will consist of three main elements:

To act as advocates for implementing improved cross-Government support, including services outlined in the Service Personnel Command Paper and recently announced 'Welfare Pathway'.

To raise awareness, within their areas, of the above services, the War Pension scheme, Armed Forces Compensation scheme and the Veterans Welfare service.

To assist veterans, and their families in accessing local support services as described above. Further, to provide assistance and guidance to individuals in accessing the war pension scheme and armed forces compensation scheme and to provide an independent element to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency's complaints process relating to these schemes.

By extending the role of the committees to include an advocacy role, at local level, we are demonstrating the commitment of the Government to embed these initiatives across the country.

## HEALTH

### Kidney Care (National Service Framework)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen):** The Department has today published "*Achieving Excellence in Kidney Care: Delivering the National Service Framework for Renal Services*", which outlines progress towards the standards and quality requirements of the national service framework, and highlights specific examples of good practice and innovation. The report also celebrates the first year of operation of the improvement organisation NHS Kidney Care, part of NHS Diabetes and Kidney Care.

Real progress to implement the national service framework has been made. The NHS is now a world-leader in the detection and management of chronic kidney disease in primary care, there has been a marked drop in MRSA infection rates among kidney patients as best practice in vascular access becomes more widespread, and there has also been a welcome reduction in the number of late referrals to renal replacement therapy services. Dialysis capacity has expanded through more main and satellite units, and progress continues to be made in increasing the number of organ donors, particularly as the recommendations of the organ donation taskforce are put into action.

The report is, however, equally clear that there is no room for complacency and that there remains a lot more work to be done to take kidney services from good to great. Looking to the future, it is clear that a renewed focus on the issue of acute kidney injury (acute renal failure) is required as part of driving up standards of care across acute medicine. Another central and important theme is achieving real patient choice, and ensuring that a full range of treatment settings are available for all patients, including increasing capacity for home haemodialysis in line with NICE guidance. This would enable patients to more effectively self-care if it is clinically appropriate, and if they wish to make that choice.

"*Achieving Excellence in Kidney Care: Delivering the National Service Framework for Renal Services*" has been placed in the Library of the House and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

### Genomic Medicine

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron):** I am pleased to announce that the Government's response to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, genomic medicine inquiry report has been laid before Parliament. The Select Committee's report on the rapid developments in human genetics is extremely timely.

Since the Genetics White Paper 2003 "Our inheritance, our future", the Government have invested over £80 million to fund a broad-based programme of work that has put in place a framework for the National Health Service (NHS) genetics services today. These investments have already provided new levels of genetic knowledge, skills and services within the NHS. Following the review of the White Paper in 2008, the Government have been taking forward a series of actions:

to strengthen specialised genetic services;

position genetic services into the mainstream diagnostic pathway;

promote understanding across the NHS; and

generate new knowledge and applications.

In addition to this, the Medical Research Council and other research councils collectively invested over £45 million in genomic medicine in 2007-08.

The Government response reinforces our commitment to genetics research and aims to maintain our position as world leader in associated health research, development and innovation. It clearly sets out how we will continue to ensure the NHS is ready for future developments and that new technologies are properly developed and translated into clinical practice.

### Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope):** Following the 'Third Sector Funding and Investment Review' in 2008, and a subsequent procurement exercise conducted by the Department to appoint an organisation to manage and deliver a new 'health and social care volunteering fund', the Government have today announced that they have awarded the contract to act as volunteering fund manager to a partnership led by ECOTEC, with PrimeTimers, Attend and CSV, who will deliver support linked to grant funding to enable third sector organisations to achieve their objectives for long term sustainability.

The volunteering fund will provide two distinct grant funding schemes: a local grant scheme aimed at supporting volunteering in health and social care, with awards made subject to applicants being connected at local level to commissioners; and a national portfolio scheme through which national organisations will be able to apply for more substantial awards to deliver more strategic or developmental volunteering programmes. The fund manager will also share good practice, disseminate learning and deliver training and development for local and national volunteering programmes.

Volunteers play a range of critically important roles in our communities, and in the context of health and social care: contributing to the delivery of high quality health, care and support services; improving health and well-being; helping to reduce health and social inequality. They frequently offer support to people at the most vulnerable points in their lives.

The future of health and social care provision places an ever stronger emphasis on better quality and more personalised services, creating even more potential for new roles and opportunities for volunteering that complement the services provided by the paid workforce and utilise the expertise of service users in the provision of services.

The volunteering fund will replace the existing opportunities for volunteering (OFV) scheme over the next three years. Building on the success of the OFV scheme since 1982, the new volunteering fund will be more closely aligned with Departmental strategic objectives; therefore increasing the impact of the Government's investment in volunteering in directly supporting their integration with the delivery of Departmental strategic outcomes.

Overall, ECOTEC's planned approach will support coherent investment, reinforce the role of volunteering in health and social care, and support implementation of the funding and investment review and the developing strategic vision for volunteering in health and social care.

### Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** The 10th report to Parliament on the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) was published today.

The Department published the first report on the PPRS in 1996 following a comment by the Health Committee that the "Department of Health should introduce greater transparency into the PPRS by publishing an annual report on the scheme". Since then, the Department has published a report to Parliament on the operation and management of the scheme most years. However, there has not been a report since July 2006 following the Office of Fair Trading's market study into the PPRS in 2007 and the renegotiation of the PPRS in 2007 and 2008. This latest report covers developments since the last report and a description of the new 2009 PPRS.

A copy of the report has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote office.

## JUSTICE

### Out-of-Court-Disposals

**The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw):** On Monday 9 November I announced our intention to review the use of out-of-court disposals by criminal justice agencies. Today the Home Secretary, the Attorney-General and I are publishing the terms of reference for this review.

Out-of-court penalties and other similar interventions in one form or another have been available for a long time. They are designed to provide simple, swift and proportionate ways of responding to antisocial behaviour and low-risk offending and to save courts the time of listening to minor and undisputed matters. They also support rehabilitation and reparation, especially by young people, provide quick resolution to victims and free up time for the police and courts to focus on more serious offending.

Existing legislation and guidance on the use of out-of-court disposals is clear, but we have been concerned by reports of these disposals being used for apparently serious offences, including violent assaults. We are also concerned by the apparent variation between areas in the number of crimes brought to justice through the use of out-of-court disposals, by reports of the repeated use of such disposals even for low-level offences, and by the robustness of their enforcement.

We have therefore asked the Office for Criminal Justice Reform to conduct a review of the use of out-of-court disposals with the following terms of reference:

> To examine evidence on the use and enforcement of out-of-court disposals for adults and youths by criminal justice agencies;
>
> To identify any issues with current operational practices, including current performance and regulation frameworks, and compliance with legislation and published guidance;
>
> To report to Ministers in order that they can issue a written statement to Parliament in March 2010 on emerging findings and the focus for the next phase of the review, including any further work required to improve the compliance of criminal justice agencies with legislation and guidance and to consider possible changes to the out-of-court disposals frameworks for adults and youths to improve transparency and confidence in the criminal justice system.

The objective of this first phase of the review is to ensure we have a proper understanding of the operation of the existing out-of-court disposals framework. To this end, and in consultation with key criminal justice partners, the review will examine:

> i) national trends in the numbers of out-of-court disposals in the context of the level of crime, charged cases, court caseloads and convictions;
>
> ii) local variation in the number of out-of-court disposals and operational practice, including performance management and quality assurance arrangements;
>
> iii) the use of out-of-court disposals for serious offences, and the consultation with victims in such cases;

(iv) evidence of the effectiveness of out-of-court disposals, including operational issues such as the repeat issue of disposals to offenders, compliance and enforcement, and any evidence of the outcomes they deliver for offenders, victims and the public's confidence in the criminal justice system; and

(v) the efficiency of using out-of-court disposals, including evidence of their costs and benefits to criminal justice agencies, and any concerns about bureaucracy.

The findings from this first phase of the review will determine the work to be undertaken in the second phase of the review. The programme of work that will form the second phase of the review, and the timescales for this, will be set out in the further written statement I will issue to Parliament in March 2010.

## Diverting Women Away from Crime

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle):** Today I am publishing a report on the Government's strategy for diverting women away from crime. Prison is the right place for those who are dangerous and serious offenders but only 3 per cent. of the female population fall into that category.

Two years ago I announced our commitment to a fundamental change in how the criminal justice system deals with women. We believe rebalancing our spending from custodial provision to community provision will stop vulnerable women from becoming trapped in a cycle of crime. Women's offending is a complex problem which creates a burden on society, damage to children and families, and misery for the women themselves.

I am pleased to announce that having put in place an intensive, multi-agency approach, we are starting to make a difference, and I am today announcing a commitment to go further. We will:

Reduce the women's prison estate by 300 places by March 2011 and 400 places by March 2012 and divert resources from custody to the community to sustain the multi-agency community services we have established through grant funding.

Provide up to £5 million to improve approved premises accommodation for women offenders that are being closely supervised on release from custody, and for women offenders with high levels of need to keep them out of custody.

Make available funding of over £1 million to pilot a new project, from April 2010, to explore the benefits of early intervention for women with multiple needs from their first point of contact with the criminal justice system. Family intervention projects will target this group of women and their dependent children in up to 20 areas in England to provide intensive personalised support in a community setting. Dedicated key-workers will provide intensive support to vulnerable women and their families.

Fund enhanced bail support to provide mentoring and other provision to help over 500 more women settle in accommodation.

We have already made good progress with taking forward our strategy to divert women from crime. It takes time to effect change but we can already see a promising reduction in the number of women in prison and encouraging increase in the use of community orders for women.

These findings show we are moving swiftly towards our aim of a different, coherent and sustainable approach to help prevent vulnerable women from becoming trapped in a cycle of crime.

We have been investing to build the necessary community capacity to ensure that there are effective alternatives to custody for women who might otherwise be remanded into custody or given short prison sentences. Earlier this year I announced £15.6 million of new funding over two years, to invest in the provision of additional services in the community for women offenders, who are not a danger to the public, and women at risk of offending.

This funding has crucially given women offenders and those at risk of offending the engagement with the mainstream services they so often struggle to access. It has also enabled centres to give courts an alternative to short prison sentences by providing additional requirements that can be linked into a productive community sentence that can be more effective in cutting re-offending.

The issues that women and girls face are often multiple, complex and rooted in social exclusion; they commonly include mental health problems, drug and alcohol addiction, sexual and domestic abuse as well as concerns regarding their children's welfare, poverty and homelessness. By failing to address these needs we let down some of the most socially excluded people within our society today; the need to address these issues could not be clearer.

Through our work we aim to secure access for women to homes, jobs, mainstream health services, support to tackle drug and alcohol misuse and mental health problems, support for them and their children as a socially excluded group and as victims themselves.

Underpinning our strategy is the gender equality duty which is our main lever to ensure delivery of gender specific services. To promote awareness of how the gender equality duty supports a different approach to women offenders; share best practice and publicise the work and knowledge of local services within the community, a series of one day 'Women in Focus' stakeholder events have been held across the country, the evaluation of which will be published in early 2010.

The report sets out our progress and plans to consolidate and build on delivery of our strategy, to invest further in community provision, and to make more widespread changes to stop women committing crime and entering the criminal justice system. I have placed copies of the Update Report in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

I firmly believe that the approach we have been taking and the further announcements today will help transform for the better the way women offenders are managed. It will also contribute to our wider ambition to prevent women who are at risk of offending from entering the justice system.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Independent Reviewer of the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007 (Annual Report)

**The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins):** I have arranged for copies of the second report of Robert Whalley CB, Independent Reviewer of the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007 (the "2007 Act"), to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

This second report provides an assessment of the operation of sections 21 to 32 of the 2007 act and the procedures adopted by the Brigade Commander 38 (Irish) Brigade for receiving, investigating and responding to complaints. The report covers the period 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009.

The report highlights the seriousness in the security position this year, with the reviewer reporting that the use of the powers under the 2007 Act has remained entirely appropriate and proportional. The reviewer makes clear that, in the light of the activities of dissident republicans, the balance of argument for continuing the powers is persuasive.

The independent reviewer notes that while the low level of general complaints regarding military activity has been maintained, there has been an increase in the number of complaints in relation to helicopter flying. The reviewer does, however, assess that the procedures adopted by the Brigade Commander 38 (Irish) Brigade for dealing with these complaints is positive and he is satisfied that the staff concerned with addressing the complaints are aware of the importance of pursuing their inquiries fully and expeditiously. This is important, as these training flights are necessary and reflect the armed forces wider strategic commitment, particularly in Afghanistan.

There has also been a major change recently with the closure of RAF Aldergrove. While air activity will continue under the Joint Helicopter Command Flying Station Aldergrove, the reviewer has indicated this change presents an opportunity to review how best to reconcile military needs with the impact on the community, through the fullest possible engagement with the community.

The Chief Constable and the Brigade Commander 38 (Irish) Brigade have both welcomed the independent reviewer's report and the recommendations made. I too welcome the recommendations made by Robert Whalley in his second report and I will consider them carefully.

## TRANSPORT

### High Speed Two

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole):** My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

> In January, the Government set up High Speed Two Ltd to advise on the development of high-speed rail services between London and Scotland. At the end of this month High Speed Two will report to me on a detailed route plan for the first stage of a north-south high-speed line, from London to the West Midlands. The company will also advise on options for extending high-speed services, and high-speed lines, to destinations further north, including the North-West, the East Midlands, Yorkshire, the North-East and Scotland. It will also advise on options for serving Heathrow Airport, and on connections between High Speed One and High Speed Two.
>
> HS2 will present a business case supported by technical assessments, including demand forecasts, and the potential for shifting journeys to high-speed rail from air and road. In respect of the route between London and the West Midlands, the company will also present detailed plans, design specifications, and an assessment of costs, funding and delivery structures.
>
> Having taken full account of the HS2 report, if the Government decide to pursue proposals for high-speed rail, we will publish a White Paper setting out plans by the end of March 2010. This would include route proposals, timescales and associated financial, economic, and environmental assessments. The White Paper would be followed by a full public consultation in the autumn of 2010, giving all interested parties an opportunity to comment before proposals are finalised and a Hybrid Bill is prepared.
>
> It would not be possible to publish the HS2 report in advance of a White Paper setting out the Government's plans, as to do so would cause unnecessary blight in respect of options identified but not taken forward. However, the report will be published alongside the Government's response. I will seek to minimise uncertainty for those who are potentially affected by a proposed line, and the White Paper would therefore set out, for consultation, a non-statutory hardship scheme.

### Local Transport Act 2008: Review of Designated Bodies for Section 19 Permits

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan):** The Government are today publishing their response to the consultation on proposals to review the list of "designated bodies".

Under section 19 of the Transport Act 1985, the Secretary of State has the power to designate bodies who may issue permits under that section to eligible community transport operators. These "section 19" permits allow the holder to operate transport services for hire or reward, subject to certain conditions, without the need for a full public service vehicle operator's licence.

The Government published the 12-week consultation on the 21 July 2009, and intend final proposals to come into force around the middle of 2010. The proposals would apply to England, Scotland and Wales.

Copies of the formal response are available on the Departments website (www.dft.gov.uk) and in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Railway Modernisation

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole):** My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

> In July, I announced a £1.1 billion investment in the electrification of the Great Western Main Line between London and South Wales, and the line between Liverpool and Manchester.
>
> In the pre-Budget report the Chancellor indicated that the Government are now going ahead with plans for electrification of further lines in the North-West. I can today set out the lines and expected timescales involved.
>
> The first line is between Huyton—on the line running from Liverpool to Manchester—and Wigan, on the already electrified West Coast Main Line. This will allow electric trains to operate between Liverpool and Wigan via St. Helens. The second line is between Manchester and Euxton Junction—just south of Preston on the West Coast Main Line. This will allow electric trains to operate between Manchester and Preston, via Bolton. The third line is between Blackpool North and Preston. This will allow electric trains to operate between Blackpool North and both Liverpool and Manchester.

Our plans envisage that, once electrified, these three lines will be served by thoroughly refurbished electric commuter trains transferred from the Thameslink line. This will increase rail capacity and reliability between key cities and towns in the North-West. It will allow 30 year old "Pacer" diesel trains to be retired, and modern diesel trains to be transferred to other routes requiring extra capacity. It will also help to reduce the long-term cost of operating the railway, and reduce carbon emissions.

Network Rail will now develop detailed plans to complete these electrification projects alongside the previously-announced plans for Liverpool to Manchester, opening in sequence between 2014 and 2016. Funding of up to £1.1 billion had already been allocated for electrification between Liverpool and Manchester and on the Great Western Main Line. Subject to detailed work on value for money on each new line, a further £200 million will be provided from within Network Rail's capital programme, giving a total investment available for electrification of up to £1.3 billion.

In July I undertook to review the Department's rolling stock plan in the light of the electrification announcements and other developments. The Government remain committed to providing an additional 1,300 carriages by mid-2014. Until commercial negotiations on the Thameslink programme are completed, I am not in a position to update the rolling stock plan, which is critically dependent on the determination of the Thameslink rolling stock contract. However, I can give the following detail of recent and projected rolling stock procurements:

> Southeastern introduced 48 cascaded carriages in March 2009 as the first phase of additional capacity to address the crowding of train services through London Bridge to London Charing Cross and London Cannon Street. The specification for the second phase is now being developed as part of the Thameslink Key Output 1 (December 2011) and Key Output 2 (December 2015) service patterns which are being discussed with train operators.
>
> The East Anglia franchise operator will take delivery of 120 new carriages for Stansted Express services, as part of the Department's agreement with the current train operating company. This will enable the carriages currently forming these trains to be redeployed to lengthen other services into London Liverpool Street. National Express East Anglia is also deploying a further 68 cascaded carriages to lengthen existing trains. In total 188 new and cascaded carriages will be deployed to increase capacity into London Liverpool Street.
>
> The first two phases of additional capacity on London Midland services have been agreed. These involve the deployment of 28 cascaded carriages to lengthen trains and also to operate more trains between Watford and London Euston during peak periods. The third phase of the additional capacity for London Midland services is now being developed with the train operator. This will focus on additional capacity into Birmingham.
>
> Extra capacity provision is included in the recently-announced Southern franchise. This includes additional capacity into London Bridge and London Victoria over the next three years using 128 cascaded carriages.
>
> Arrangements are almost finalised with First Capital Connect for the introduction of 41 carriages onto the services into London. The extra carriages will be introduced over the next 12 months.
>
> Negotiations are underway with First Great Western to provide additional capacity on services around Bristol. This is expected to involve additional cascaded carriages, introduced over the next 12 to 18 months.
>
> Proposals for the provision of additional capacity into London Waterloo are being negotiated with South West Trains.
>
> The provision of additional capacity on the Shrewsbury - Birmingham route is being developed with Arriva Trains Wales.
>
> Plans for additional capacity on the Liverpool—Nottingham route are being developed with East Midlands Trains.
>
> The specification for a first phase of additional capacity on services into Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield has been completed and is now being discussed with Northern Rail and the relevant Passenger Transport Executives. Planning work is also underway with Northern Rail and the Passenger Transport Executives to develop a second phase scheme to address the further capacity requirements for these cities.
>
> The specification for the new Essex Thameside (C2C) franchise in May 2011 will include extra capacity requirements. The proposed specification will be published in early 2010.
>
> The specification for the new Intercity West Coast franchise, due to start in April 2012, will include a requirement to deploy the 106 new Pendolino vehicles on order to increase capacity between London, Birmingham and Manchester.
>
> The current Transpennine Express franchise is due to end in February 2012, and the specification for its replacement will be developed over the next 24 months. This will include the deployment of new electric trains on the Manchester to Central Scotland route, allowing the diesel trains currently operating these services to be used to provide more capacity on the main trans-Pennine route.
>
> Chiltern Railway's franchise agreement contains provision under Evergreen Phases 2 and 3 for extra capacity requirements to be delivered by 2014. Chiltern Railways has procured additional carriages to achieve this and further plans are now being discussed.

## WALES

### Legislative Competence Order (Transport)

**The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain):** I am pleased to inform the House that the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Transport) Order 2010 has been laid today, as Command Paper (Cm 7777). Copies of this can be found in the Vote Office and will be placed in the Library of the House from 12 noon. I have written to the Welsh Affairs Committee and to the House of Lords Constitutional Committee to request they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Benefits Up-rating

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper):** The proposed rates of benefit for 2010 are set out in the table below. The annual up-rating of benefits will take place for state pension and most other benefits in the first full week of the tax year. In 2010, this will be the week beginning 12 April. A corresponding provision will be made in Northern Ireland.

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *Rates 2009* | *Rates 2010* |
|---|---|---|
| *Attendance Allowance* | | |
| higher rate | 70.35 | 71.40 |
| lower rate | 47.10 | 47.80 |
| *Carer's Allowance* | 53.10 | 53.90 |
| *Council Tax Benefit* | | |
| Personal allowances | | |
| Single | | |
| 18 to 24 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| 25 or over | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| entitled to main phase ESA | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| lone parent | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| couple | 100.95 | 102.75 |
| dependent children | 56.11 | 57.57 |
| pensioner | | |
| single/lone parent has attained the qualifying age for Pension Credit but under 65 | 130.00 | 132.60 |
| couple - one or both has attained the qualifying age for Pension Credit but both under 65 | 198.45 | 202.40 |
| single/lone parent - 65 and over | 150.40 | 153.15 |
| couple - one or both 65 and over | 225.50 | 229.50 |
| *Premiums* | | |
| Family | 17.30 | 17.40 |
| family (lone parent rate) | 22.20 | 22.20 |
| child under 1 | 10.50 | 10.50 |
| Disability | | |
| Single | 27.50 | 28.00 |
| Couple | 39.15 | 39.85 |
| enhanced disability | | |
| single | 13.40 | 13.65 |
| disabled child | 20.65 | 21.00 |
| couple | 19.30 | 19.65 |
| severe disability | | |
| single | 52.85 | 53.65 |
| couple (lower rate) | 52.85 | 53.65 |
| couple (higher rate) | 105.70 | 107.30 |
| disabled child | 51.24 | 52.08 |
| carer | 29.50 | 30.05 |
| ESA components | | |
| work-related activity | 25.50 | 25.95 |
| support | 30.85 | 31.40 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *Rates 2009* | *Rates 2010* |
|---|---|---|
| Alternative maximum Council Tax Benefit | | |
| second adult on IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) or Pension Credit | 25% of Council Tax | 25% of Council Tax |
| first adult(s) student(s) | 100% of Council Tax | 100% of Council Tax |
| second adult's gross income : | | |
| under £175.00 | 15% of Council Tax | 15% of Council Tax |
| £175.00 to £227.99 | 7.5% of Council Tax | 7.5% of Council Tax |
| *Capital Limit - rules common to Income Support, income based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit unless stated otherwise* | | |
| upper limit | 16,000.00 | 16,000.00 |
| upper limit - Pension Credit guarantee credit and HB/CTB where claimant/partner 60 or over | No limit | No limit |
| Amount disregarded - all benefits except Pension Credit and Housing Benefit and Council Tax benefit for those below the qualifying age for Pension Credit | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 |
| Amount disregarded - Pension Credit and Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit for those above the qualifying age for Pension Credit | 6,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| child disregard (not Pension Credit) | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| amt disregarded (living in RC/NH) | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| Tariff income | | |
| £1 for every £250, or part thereof, between the amount of capital disregarded and the capital upper limit | | |
| Tariff income - Pension Credit and HB/CTB where clmt/ptner 60 or over. | | |
| £1 for every £500, or part thereof, between the amount of capital disregarded and capital upper limit | | |
| *Deductions - rules common to Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit and Council tax benefit unless stated otherwise* | | |
| Non-dependent deductions from housing benefit and from IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) and Pension Credit | | |
| aged 25 and over in receipt of IS and JSA(IB), in receipt of main phase ESA(IR), aged 18 or over, not in remunerative work | 7.40 | 7.40 |
| aged 18 or over and in remunerative work | | |
| gross income: less than £120.00 | 7.40 | 7.40 |
| gross income: £120 to £177.99 | 17.00 | 17.00 |
| gross income: £178 to £230.99 | 23.35 | 23.35 |
| gross income: £231 to £305.99 | 38.20 | 38.20 |
| gross income: £306 to £381.99 | 43.50 | 43.50 |
| gross income: £382 and above | 47.75 | 47.75 |
| Non-dependent deductions from council tax benefit | | |
| aged 18 or over and in remunerative work | | |
| gross income: £382 or more | 6.95 | 6.95 |
| gross income: £306 - £381.99 | 5.80 | 5.80 |
| gross income: £178 - £305.99 | 4.60 | 4.60 |
| gross income less than £178 | 2.30 | 2.30 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *Rates 2009* | *Rates 2010* |
|---|---|---|
| others aged 18 or over | 2.30 | 2.30 |
| Deductions from housing benefit | | |
| Service charges for fuel | | |
| Heating | 21.55 | 21.55 |
| hot water | 2.50 | 2.50 |
| Lighting | 1.75 | 1.75 |
| Cooking | 2.50 | 2.50 |
| Amount ineligible for meals | | |
| three or more meals a day | | |
| single claimant | 22.95 | 23.35 |
| each person in family aged 16 or over | 22.95 | 23.35 |
| each child under 16 | 11.60 | 11.80 |
| less than three meals a day | | |
| single claimant | 15.25 | 15.50 |
| each person in family aged 16 or over | 15.25 | 15.50 |
| each child under 16 | 7.65 | 7.80 |
| breakfast only - claimant and each member of the family | 2.80 | 2.85 |
| Amount for personal expenses (not HB/CTB) | 21.90 | 22.30 |
| Third party deductions from IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) and Pension Credit for: | | |
| arrears of housing, fuel and water costs | 3.25 | 3.30 |
| council tax etc. and deductions for ELDS and ILS. | | |
| child support, contribution towards maintenance (CTM) | | |
| standard deduction | 6.50 | 6.60 |
| lower deduction | 3.25 | 3.30 |
| arrears of Community Charge | | |
| court order against claimant | 3.25 | 3.30 |
| court order against couple | 5.05 | 5.15 |
| fine or compensation order | | |
| standard rate | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| lower rate | 3.25 | 3.30 |
| Maximum deduction rates for recovery of overpayments (not CTB/JSA(C)/ESA(C)) | | |
| ordinary overpayments | 9.75 | 9.90 |
| where claimant convicted of fraud | 12.80 | 13.20 |
| Deductions from JSA© | | |
| Arrears of Comm. Charge, Council Tax, fines and overpayment recovery | | |
| Age 16 – 24 | 16.98 | 17.28 |
| Age 25 + | 21.43 | 21.81 |
| Max. dedn for arrears of Child Maintenance (CTM) | | |
| Age 16 – 24 | 16.98 | 17.28 |
| Age 25 + | 21.43 | 21.81 |
| ***Disregards*** | | |
| ***Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit*** | | |
| Earnings disregards | | |
| standard (single claimant) | 5.00 | 5.00 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *Rates 2009* | *Rates 2010* |
|---|---|---|
| Couple | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| higher (special occupations/circumstances) | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| lone parent | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| childcare charges | 175.00 | 175.00 |
| childcare charges (2 or more children) | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| permitted work higher | n/a | 93.00 |
| permitted work lower | n/a | 20.00 |
| Other Income disregards | | |
| adult maintenance disregard | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| war disablement pension and war widows pension | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| widowed mothers/parents allowance | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| Armed Forces Compensation Scheme | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| student loan | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| student's covenanted income | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| income from boarders (plus 50% of the balance) | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| additional earnings disregard | 16.85 | 17.10 |
| income from subtenants (£20 fixed from April 08) | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| | | |
| *Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance and Pension Credit* | | |
| Earnings disregards | | |
| standard (single claimant) | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| Couple | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| higher (special occupations/circumstances) | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Other Income disregards | | |
| war disablement pension and war widows pension | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| widowed mothers/parents allowance | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Armed Forces Compensation Scheme | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| student loan (not Pension Credit), | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| student's covenanted income (not Pension Credit) | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| income from boarders (plus 50% of the balance) | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| income from subtenants (£20 fixed from April 08) | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| | | |
| *Dependency Increases* | | |
| Adult dependency increases for spouse or person looking after after children - payable with: | | |
| State Pension on own insurance | 57.05 | 57.05 |
| long term Incapacity Benefit and Unemployability Supplement | 53.10 | 53.10 |
| Severe Disablement Allowance | 31.90 | 31.90 |
| Carers Allowance | 31.70 | 31.70 |
| short-term Incapacity Benefit (over state pension age) | 51.10 | 51.10 |
| Maternity Allowance and short-term Incapacity Benefit. | 41.35 | 41.35 |
| Child Dependency Increases - payable with: | | |
| State Pension; Widowed Mothers/Parents Allowance; short-term Incapacity benefit - higher rate or over state pension age; long-term Incapacity Benefit; Carer's Allowance; Severe Disablement Allowance; Industrial Death Benefit (higher rate); | 11.35 | 11.35 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *Rates 2009* | *Rates 2010* |
|---|---|---|
| Unemployability Supplement. | | |
| NB - The rate of child dependency increase is adjusted where it is payable for the eldest child for whom child benefit is also paid. The weekly rate in such cases is reduced by the difference (less £3.65) between the ChB rates for the eldest and subsequent children. | 8.20 | 8.10 |
| *Disability Living Allowance* | | |
| Care Component | | |
| Highest | 70.35 | 71.40 |
| Middle | 47.10 | 47.80 |
| Lowest | 18.65 | 18.95 |
| Mobility Component | | |
| Higher | 49.10 | 49.85 |
| Lower | 18.65 | 18.95 |
| *Employment and Support Allowance* | | |
| Personal Allowances | | |
| under 25 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| 25 or over | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| lone parent | | |
| under 18 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| 18 or over | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| Couple | | |
| both under 18 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| both under 18 with child | 76.90 | 78.30 |
| both under 18 (main phase) | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| both under 18 with child (main phase) | 100.95 | 102.75 |
| one 18 or over, one under 18 | 100.95 | 102.75 |
| both over 18 | 100.95 | 102.75 |
| claimant under 25, partner under 18 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| claimant 25 or over, partner under 18 | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| claimant (main phase), partner under 18 | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| Premiums | | |
| enhanced disability | | |
| Single | 13.40 | 13.65 |
| Couple | 19.30 | 19.65 |
| severe disability | | |
| Single | 52.85 | 53.65 |
| couple (lower rate) | 52.85 | 53.65 |
| couple (higher rate) | 105.70 | 107.30 |
| Carer | 29.50 | 30.05 |
| pensioner | | |
| single with WRAC | 40.20 | 41.20 |
| single with support component | 34.85 | 35.75 |
| single with no component | 65.70 | 67.15 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *Rates 2009* | *Rates 2010* |
|---|---|---|
| couple with WRAC | 72.00 | 73.70 |
| couple with support component | 66.65 | 68.25 |
| couple with no component | 97.50 | 99.65 |
| Components | | |
| Work-related Activity | 25.50 | 25.95 |
| Support | 30.85 | 31.40 |
| *Earnings Rules* | | |
| Carers Allowance | 95.00 | 95.00 |
| Limit of earnings from councillor's allowance | 92.00 | 93.00 |
| Permitted work earnings limit | | |
| Higher | 92.00 | 93.00 |
| Lower | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Industrial injuries unemployability supplement permitted earnings level (annual amount) | 4,784.00 | 4,836.00 |
| Earnings level at which adult dependency (ADI) increases are affected with: | | |
| short-term incap benefit where claimant is | | |
| (a) under state pension age | 41.35 | 41.35 |
| (b) over state pension age | 51.10 | 51.10 |
| maternity allowance | 41.35 | 41.35 |
| state pension, long term incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, unemployability supplement - payable when dependant | | |
| (a) is living with claimant | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| (b) still qualifies for the tapered earnings rule | 45.09 | 45.09 |
| Earnings level at which ADI is affected when dependant is not living with claimant: | | |
| state pension, | 57.05 | 57.05 |
| long-term incapacity benefit, unemployability supplement | 53.10 | 53.10 |
| severe disablement allowance | 31.90 | 31.90 |
| Carers allowance | 31.70 | 31.70 |
| Earnings level at which child dependency increases are affected | | |
| for first child | 195.00 | 200.00 |
| additional amount for each subsequent child | 26.00 | 26.00 |
| Pension income threshold for incapacity benefit | 85.00 | 85.00 |
| Pension income threshold for contributory Employment Support Allowance | 85.00 | 85.00 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *Rates 2009* | *Rates 2010* |
|---|---|---|
| *Housing Benefit* | | |
| Personal allowances | | |
| Single | | |
| 16 to 24 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| 25 or over | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| entitled to main phase ESA | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| lone parent | | |
| under 18 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| 18 or over | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| entitled to main phase ESA | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| couple | | |
| both under 18 | 76.90 | 78.30 |
| one or both 18 or over | 100.95 | 102.75 |
| claimant entitled to main phase ESA | 100.95 | 102.75 |
| dependent children | 56.11 | 57.57 |
| pensioner | | |
| single/lone parent has attained the qualifying age for Pension Credit but under 65. | 130.00 | 132.60 |
| Couple— one or both has attained the qualifying age for Pension Credit but both under 65 | 198.45 | 202.40 |
| single/lone parent - 65 and over | 150.40 | 153.15 |
| couple - one or both 65 and over | 225.50 | 229.50 |
| Premiums | | |
| family | 17.30 | 17.40 |
| family (lone parent rate) | 22.20 | 22.20 |
| child under 1 | 10.50 | 10.50 |
| disability | | |
| single | 27.50 | 28.00 |
| couple | 39.15 | 39.85 |
| enhanced disability | | |
| single | 13.40 | 13.65 |
| disabled child | 20.65 | 21.00 |
| couple | 19.30 | 19.65 |
| severe disability | | |
| single | 52.85 | 53.65 |
| couple (lower rate) | 52.85 | 53.65 |
| couple (higher rate) | 105.70 | 107.30 |
| disabled child | 51.24 | 52.08 |
| carer | 29.50 | 30.05 |
| ESA components | | |
| work-related activity | 25.50 | 25.95 |
| support | 30.85 | 31.40 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *Rates 2009* | *Rates 2010* |
|---|---|---|
| *Incapacity Benefit* | | |
| Long-term Incapacity Benefit | 89.80 | 91.40 |
| Short-term Incapacity Benefit (under state pension age) | | |
| lower rate | 67.75 | 68.95 |
| higher rate | 80.15 | 81.60 |
| Short-term Incapacity Benefit (over state pension age) | | |
| lower rate | 86.20 | 87.75 |
| higher rate | 89.80 | 91.40 |
| Increase of Long-term Incapacity Benefit for age | | |
| higher rate | 15.65 | 15.00 |
| lower rate | 6.55 | 5.80 |
| Invalidity Allowance (Transitional) | | |
| higher rate | 15.65 | 15.00 |
| middle rate | 9.10 | 8.40 |
| lower rate | 5.35 | 5.45 |
| *Income Support* | | |
| Personal Allowances | | |
| Single | | |
| under 25 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| 25 or over | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| lone parent | | |
| under 18 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| 18 or over | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| Couple | | |
| both under 18 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| both under 18 - higher rate | 76.90 | 78.30 |
| one under 18, one under 25 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| one under 18, one 25 and over | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| both 18 or over | 100.95 | 102.75 |
| dependent children | 56.11 | 57.57 |
| Premiums | | |
| family/lone parent | 17.30 | 17.40 |
| pensioner (applies to couples only) | 97.50 | 99.65 |
| disability | | |
| single | 27.50 | 28.00 |
| couple | 39.15 | 39.85 |
| enhanced disability | | |
| single | 13.40 | 13.65 |
| disabled child | 20.65 | 21.00 |
| couple | 19.30 | 19.65 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *Rates 2009* | *Rates 2010* |
|---|---|---|
| severe disability | | |
| single | 52.85 | 53.65 |
| couple (lower rate) | 52.85 | 53.65 |
| couple (higher rate) | 105.70 | 107.30 |
| disabled child | 51.24 | 52.08 |
| carer | 29.50 | 30.05 |
| Relevant sum for strikers | 34.50 | 35.00 |
| *Industrial Death Benefit* | | |
| Widow's pension | | |
| higher rate | 95.25 | 97.65 |
| lower rate | 28.58 | 29.30 |
| Widower's pension | 95.25 | 97.65 |
| *Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit* | | |
| 18 and over, or under 18 with dependants | | |
| 100% | 143.60 | 145.80 |
| 90% | 129.24 | 131.22 |
| 80% | 114.88 | 116.64 |
| 70% | 100.52 | 102.06 |
| 60% | 86.16 | 87.48 |
| 50% | 71.80 | 72.90 |
| 40% | 57.44 | 58.32 |
| 30% | 43.08 | 43.74 |
| 20% | 28.72 | 29.16 |
| Under 18 | | |
| 100% | 88.05 | 89.35 |
| 90% | 79.25 | 80.42 |
| 80% | 70.44 | 71.48 |
| 70% | 61.64 | 62.55 |
| 60% | 52.83 | 53.61 |
| 50% | 44.03 | 44.68 |
| 40% | 35.22 | 35.74 |
| 30% | 26.42 | 26.81 |
| 20% | 17.61 | 17.87 |
| Maximum life gratuity (lump sum) | 9540.00 | 9680.00 |
| Unemployability Supplement | 88.75 | 90.10 |
| increase for early incapacity | | |
| higher rate | 18.65 | 18.65 |
| middle rate | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| lower rate | 6.00 | 6.00 |
| Maximum reduced earnings allowance | 57.44 | 58.32 |
| Maximum retirement allowance | 14.36 | 14.58 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *Rates 2009* | *Rates 2010* |
|---|---|---|
| Constant attendance allowance | | |
| exceptional rate | 115.00 | 116.80 |
| intermediate rate | 86.25 | 87.60 |
| normal maximum rate | 57.50 | 58.40 |
| part-time rate | 28.75 | 29.20 |
| | | |
| Exceptionally severe disablement allowance | 57.50 | 58.40 |
| | | |
| *Jobseeker's Allowance* | | |
| | | |
| Contribution based JSA - Personal rates | | |
| under 25 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| 25 or over | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| | | |
| Income-based JSA - personal allowances | | |
| | | |
| under 25 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| 25 or over | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| | | |
| lone parent | | |
| under 18 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| 18 or over | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| | | |
| couple | | |
| both under 18 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| both under 18 - higher rate | 76.90 | 78.30 |
| one under 18, one under 25 | 50.95 | 51.85 |
| one under 18, one 25 and over | 64.30 | 65.45 |
| both 18 or over | 100.95 | 102.75 |
| | | |
| dependent children | 56.11 | 57.57 |
| | | |
| Premiums | | |
| | | |
| family/lone parent | 17.30 | 17.40 |
| | | |
| pensioner | | |
| single | 65.70 | 67.15 |
| couple | 97.50 | 99.65 |
| | | |
| disability | | |
| single | 27.50 | 28.00 |
| couple | 39.15 | 39.85 |
| | | |
| enhanced disability | | |
| single | 13.40 | 13.65 |
| disabled child | 20.65 | 21.00 |
| couple | 19.30 | 19.65 |
| | | |
| severe disability | | |
| single | 52.85 | 53.65 |
| couple (lower rate) | 52.85 | 53.65 |
| couple (higher rate) | 105.70 | 107.30 |
| | | |
| disabled child | 51.24 | 52.08 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *Rates 2009* | *Rates 2010* |
|---|---|---|
| carer | 29.50 | 30.05 |
| Prescribed sum for strikers | 34.50 | 35.00 |
| *Maternity Allowance* | | |
| Standard rate | 123.06 | 124.88 |
| MA threshold | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| *Pension Credit* | | |
| Standard minimum guarantee | | |
| Single | 130.00 | 132.60 |
| Couple | 198.45 | 202.40 |
| Additional amount for severe disability | | |
| single | 52.85 | 53.65 |
| couple (one qualifies) | 52.85 | 53.65 |
| couple (both qualify) | 105.70 | 107.30 |
| Additional amount for carers | 29.50 | 30.05 |
| Savings credit | | |
| threshold - single | 96.00 | 98.40 |
| threshold - couple | 153.40 | 157.25 |
| maximum - single | 20.40 | 20.52 |
| maximum - couple | 27.03 | 27.09 |
| Amount for claimant and first spouse in polygamous marriage | 198.45 | 202.40 |
| Additional amount for additional spouse | 68.45 | 69.80 |
| *Pneumoconiosis, Byssinosis, and miscellaneous diseases scheme And the workmen's compensation (supplementation)* | | |
| Total disablement allowance and major incapacity allowance (maximum) | 143.60 | 145.80 |
| Partial disablement allowance | 53.10 | 53.90 |
| Unemployability supplement | 88.75 | 90.10 |
| increases for early incapacity - | | |
| higher rate | 18.65 | 18.65 |
| middle rate | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| lower rate | 6.00 | 6.00 |
| Constant attendance allowance | | |
| exceptional rate | 115.00 | 116.80 |
| intermediate rate | 86.25 | 87.60 |
| normal maximum rate | 57.50 | 58.40 |
| part-time rate | 28.75 | 29.20 |
| Exceptionally severe disablement allowance | 57.50 | 58.40 |
| Lesser incapacity allowance | | |
| maximum rate of allowance | 53.10 | 53.90 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *Rates 2009* | *Rates 2010* |
|---|---|---|
| based on loss of earnings over | 70.55 | 71.40 |
| *State Pension* | | |
| Category A or B | 95.25 | 97.65 |
| Category B(lower) - spouse or civil partner's insurance | 57.05 | 58.50 |
| Category C or D - non-contributory | 57.05 | 58.50 |
| Category C(lower) - non-contributory | 34.15 | 35.00 |
| Additional pension | Increase by: | 0.0% |
| Increments to:- | | |
| Basic pension | Increase by: | 0.0% |
| Additional pension | Increase by: | 0.0% |
| Graduated Retirement Benefit (GRB) | Increase by: | 0.0% |
| Inheritable lump sum | Increase by: | 0.0% |
| Contracted-out Deduction from AP in respect of pre-April 1988 contracted-out earnings | | Nil |
| Contracted-out Deduction from AP in respect of contracted-out earnings from April 1988 to 1997 | Increase by: | 0.0% |
| Graduated Retirement Benefit (unit) | 0.1153 | 0.1153 |
| Increase of long-term incapacity for age | Increase by: | 0.0% |
| Addition at age 80 | 0.25 | 0.25 |
| Increase of long-term incapacity for age | | |
| higher rate | 18.65 | 18.65 |
| lower rate | 9.35 | 9.35 |
| Invalidity Allowance (Transitional) for State Pension recipients | | |
| higher rate | 18.65 | 18.65 |
| middle rate | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| lower rate | 6.00 | 6.00 |
| *Severe Disablement Allowance* | | |
| Basic rate | 57.45 | 59.45 |
| Age-related addition (from Dec 90) | | |
| Higher rate | 15.65 | 15.00 |
| Middle rate | 9.10 | 8.40 |
| Lower rate | 5.35 | 5.45 |
| *Statutory Adoption Pay* | | |
| Earnings threshold | 95.00 | 97.00 |
| Standard Rate | 123.06 | 124.88 |
| *Statutory Maternity Pay* | | |
| Earnings threshold | 95.00 | 97.00 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *Rates 2009* | *Rates 2010* |
|---|---|---|
| Standard rate | 123.06 | 124.88 |
| *Statutory Paternity Pay* | | |
| Earnings threshold | 95.00 | 97.00 |
| Standard Rate | 123.06 | 124.88 |
| *Statutory Sick Pay* | | |
| Earnings threshold | 95.00 | 97.00 |
| Standard rate | 79.15 | 79.15 |
| *Widow's Benefit* | | |
| Widowed mother's allowance | 95.25 | 97.65 |
| Widow's pension | | |
| standard rate | 95.25 | 97.65 |
| age-related | | |
| age 54 (49) | 88.58 | 90.81 |
| 53 (48) | 81.92 | 83.98 |
| 52 (47) | 75.25 | 77.14 |
| 51 (46) | 68.58 | 70.31 |
| 50 (45) | 61.91 | 63.47 |
| 49 (44) | 55.25 | 56.64 |
| 48 (43) | 48.58 | 49.80 |
| 47 (42) | 41.91 | 42.97 |
| 46 (41) | 35.24 | 36.13 |
| 45 (40) | 28.58 | 29.30 |
| Note: For deaths occurring before 11 April 1988 refer to age-points shown in brackets. | | |
| *Bereavement Benefit* | | |
| Bereavement payment (lump sum) | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Widowed parent's allowance | 95.25 | 97.65 |
| Bereavement Allowance | | |
| standard rate | 95.25 | 97.65 |
| age-related | | |
| Age 54 | 88.58 | 90.81 |
| 53 | 81.92 | 83.98 |
| 52 | 75.25 | 77.14 |
| 51 | 68.58 | 70.31 |
| 50 | 61.91 | 63.47 |
| 49 | 55.25 | 56.64 |
| 48 | 48.58 | 49.80 |
| 47 | 41.91 | 42.97 |
| 46 | 35.24 | 36.13 |
| 45 | 28.58 | 29.30 |

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 15 December 2009*

## TREASURY

### Anti-Avoidance

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms):** This Government have put in place a comprehensive set of tax reliefs for charities and for those who choose to donate to charities. These tax reliefs provide valuable incentives to encourage people to give and provide support to the charity sector. In the UK we are rightly proud of our charity sector, which continues to undertake important work in the UK and around the world.

It is therefore particularly regrettable that we have become aware of an artificial, aggressive and offensive tax avoidance scheme that seeks to abuse those tax reliefs available for donations to charity. A similar scheme to exploit this same relief was shut down in the Finance Act 2004, and we are aware that other schemes to exploit these reliefs have been marketed since then.

The Government will not tolerate tax avoidance or tax evasion, and will act promptly to tackle both of these, so I am today announcing changes to be made to legislation, with immediate effect, to counter these schemes.

The scheme exploits the relief available for donations of listed shares and other types of qualifying investments (including land) to charities in section 431 of the Income Tax Act 2007 and section 587B of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. An offshore company sells to a taxpayer listed shares with a market value well in excess of the amounts paid. However the offshore company has an option to buy back the shares, exercisable after three years, for £1. The taxpayer then gifts the shares to a charity and gets tax relief on the higher market value of the shares, despite having paid only a fraction of that market value for the shares.

The option to buy back the shares is not taken into account for the purposes of determining the amount of the relief. The rules disregard contingent liabilities, such as an option, until the liability crystallises, typically by the exercise of the option in this case. In reality the option is never exercised and the scheme organiser gets the money back from the charity through some contrived arrangements.The benefit to the charity is typically less than half of 1 per cent. of the value of the tax relief obtained.

The Government do not accept that these highly contrived arrangements have the effect sought, but will remove any doubt by introducing appropriate legislation in the Finance Bill 2010. The new rules will reduce the tax relief on such arrangements to the lower of the cost of acquisition to the donor of the shares or investments gifted, or the market value at the date of disposal, where the acquisition was made as part of a tax advantage scheme. This legislation will have immediate effect from 15 December 2009.

The legislation will not affect genuine donations to charity where tax avoidance arrangements are not involved and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will be consulting with the charity sector to ensure that the legislation achieves its intended effect.

Further details are contained in a draft explanatory note published on HMRC's website at: www.hmrc.gov.uk, today with the proposed draft legislation.

It is particularly offensive that individuals seeking to avoid tax do so in a way that exploits charity tax reliefs.

I am therefore giving notice of our intention to deal with any arrangements that emerge in future that are designed to take advantage of the tax reliefs for donations of qualifying investments under section 431 of the Income Tax Act 2007 and section 587B of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. The Government introduced these reliefs in 2000, with the intention that they should be used only for genuine donations to genuine charities. Where HMRC becomes aware of arrangements which attempt to frustrate that intention, the Government will introduce legislation to close them down, where necessary with effect from today.

This action will not affect the vast majority of charities and donors who organise their affairs in a straightforward and ordinary way. The Government continue to believe that charities make an important contribution to our society and do not deserve having their reputation called into question by such offensive tax avoidance.

### Government Fraud Report

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry):** Today I am publishing the Government Fraud report for 2008-09. Copies of the document entitled, "Fraud report 2008-09: an analysis of reported fraud in Government departments" have been deposited in the Libraries of the House and will be available on the HM Treasury website at: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Growth Funds

**The Minister for Housing (John Healey):** I am publishing today the Government's response to their consultation on the proposed changes to the Growth Fund for 2010-11. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

The Growth Fund provides capital and revenue funding to the 75 growth partnerships in Growth Areas and Growth Points across 163 local authorities in England, supporting their planned housing growth, enabling housing development to be brought forward, tackling barriers to delivery and ensuring that new development is planned as sustainable communities. Provisional funding allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 were published in December 2008.

The exceptional economic circumstances and global recession have affected the availability of finance, credit and mortgages. The Government have taken action to help people stay in their homes, stay in work, and to help firms stay in business. The Government have also continued to focus on providing the affordable homes that people need. The Government are clear that getting house building across the country started, and providing the affordable homes that people need, is a priority during the current exceptional economic circumstances.

The Government set out the housing pledge as part of Building Britain's Future on 29 June, with a £1.5 billion package of measures to build an extra 20,000 new affordable homes in 2009-10 and 2010-11, of which over 13,000 will be for social rent, and 10,000 open market homes. As a result, the Government are now investing £7.5 billion in 2009-10 and 2010-11 to deliver up to 112,000 affordable homes and around 15,000 private homes.

While the majority of funding for the pledge comes from other Government Departments' programmes, given the importance attached to stimulating the housing market, I also reviewed our own investment programmes in Communities and Local Government to support the pledge. As such, the Government have switched £128 million capital funding from the Growth Fund in 2010-11 to support the pledge. All regions have benefited from the pledge funding, which has been considerably greater than the impact of the 2010-11 switch from growth funding.

Given the impact of the exceptional economic circumstances on the delivery of homes and infrastructure, there is uncertainty that it will be possible to use Growth Funds in the way envisaged when multi-year allocations were made before the global recession. Switching some grant money from the Growth Fund will mean it is still used for housing purposes and that the fundamental aims of the Growth Fund—to support housing growth—will still be met.

I wrote to the leaders of all local authorities in the Growth Areas and Growth Points about the housing pledge on 17 July, highlighting the opportunities for additional funding, and set out the planned adjustment to the Growth Fund. The Government's preferred approach was to make a pro-rata reduction to the provisional 2010-11 capital allocation of each Growth Area and Growth Point. Provisional revenue allocations for 2010-11 remain in full. The Government believe this approach would provide certainty on funding decisions in a timely manner, is fair and transparent. Consultation on the proposed changes lasted six weeks.

The consultation showed that although respondents did not welcome any reduction in funding they did show general support for the Government's preferred approach of a pro-rata reduction for every growth area local authority and the Government will therefore revise funding allocations for 2010-11 as set out below. Revised funding allocations will be paid by the Homes and Communities Agency to the nominated accountable body for each Growth Area and Growth Point in the first quarter of 2010-11. Local authorities in growth locations will still have the flexibility to prioritise how funding is used to best support local priorities.

*Revised Funding Allocations for 2010-11*

| *Location* | *Provisional 2010-11 Revenue Allocations* | *Revised 2010-11 Provisional Capital Allocation* | *Total 2010-11 Provisional Capital and Revenue Allocation* | *Total Capital and Revenue Funding 2008-09/2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 Cities and 3 Counties | £1,341,120 | £9,964,960 | £11,306,081 | £40,275,554 |
| Ashford | £258,000 | £4,253,886 | £4,511,886 | £23,130,042 |
| Aylesbury Vale | £271,015 | £2,533,043 | £2,804,059 | £12,293,946 |
| Barnet | £346,424 | £3,380,042 | £3,726,467 | £11,122,030 |
| Basingstoke | £216,799 | £1,622,164 | £1,838,962 | £6,194,140 |
| Bedford and Marston Vale | £309,886 | £4,444,963 | £4,754,849 | £18,679,213 |
| Birmingham and Solihull | £256,535 | £2,284,936 | £2,541,471 | £11,696,546 |
| Black Country and Sandwell | £344,478 | £2,686,479 | £3,030,957 | £6,478,667 |
| Brent | £110,000 | £1,456,989 | £1,566,989 | £6,300,064 |
| Cambridgeshire | £637,032 | £7,794,623 | £8,431,655 | £37,758,618 |
| Carlisle * | £74,908 | £0 | £74,908 | £231,089 |
| Central Lancashire and Blackpool | £215,786 | £1,700,011 | £1,915,797 | £4,119,498 |
| Chelmsford and Braintree | £192,110 | £2,378,579 | £2,570,689 | £11,540,468 |
| Coventry | £194,010 | £1,452,356 | £1,646,366 | £6,462,320 |
| Croydon | £211,429 | £1,794,982 | £2,006,411 | £5,498,105 |
| Dacorum | £123,908 | £1,229,128 | £1,353,036 | £6,334,093 |
| Didcot | £168,753 | £905,527 | £1,074,280 | £1,836,492 |
| Doncaster and South Yorkshire | £404,100 | £3,129,181 | £3,533,280 | £7,568,071 |
| Dover | £103,339 | £856,916 | £960,255 | £2,091,851 |
| East Staffs | £198,155 | £1,484,527 | £1,682,682 | £6,214,584 |
| Enfield | £171,057 | £1,155,370 | £1,326,427 | £5,964,546 |
| Exeter and East Devon | £273,956 | £2,048,414 | £2,322,370 | £7,141,274 |
| Gainsborough | £124,500 | £481,061 | £605,561 | £1,298,936 |
| Grantham | £197,335 | £1,477,741 | £1,675,077 | £6,022,333 |
| Greater Manchester | £508,781 | £3,948,235 | £4,457,017 | £9,481,743 |
| Hackney | £200,456 | £1,518,731 | £1,719,187 | £8,197,915 |
| Haringey | £0 | £1,963,083 | £1,963,083 | £9,389,401 |
| Haven Gateway | £414,888 | £3,464,424 | £3,879,311 | £15,540,525 |
| Hereford * | £171,034 | £0 | £171,034 | £1,975,549 |
| Islington | £150,000 | £1,925,129 | £2,075,129 | £6,751,313 |

*Revised Funding Allocations for 2010-11*

| *Location* | *Provisional 2010-11 Revenue Allocations* | *Revised 2010-11 Provisional Capital Allocation* | *Total 2010-11 Provisional Capital and Revenue Allocation* | *Total Capital and Revenue Funding 2008-09/2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kerrier and Restormel | £164,031 | £1,327,041 | £1,491,072 | £3,191,279 |
| Kings Lynn | £107,915 | £888,670 | £996,586 | £2,166,905 |
| Leeds City Region | £259,887 | £2,049,795 | £2,309,682 | £4,985,742 |
| Lincoln | £251,634 | £1,881,362 | £2,132,996 | £8,071,257 |
| London Harlow Stansted | £346,262 | £3,851,751 | £4,198,013 | £18,624,097 |
| Luton and South Beds | £285,000 | £2,856,541 | £3,141,541 | £19,661,505 |
| Maidstone | £193,349 | £1,451,698 | £1,645,046 | £5,816,667 |
| Mersey Heartlands | £259,208 | £2,041,401 | £2,300,609 | £4,966,785 |
| Mid Mersey | £164,241 | £1,302,980 | £1,467,221 | £3,190,525 |
| Milton Keynes | £250,000 | £5,026,841 | £5,276,841 | £24,590,112 |
| Newark on Trent | £204,756 | £1,533,510 | £1,738,266 | £5,708,951 |
| Newcastle and Gateshead | £191,795 | £1,519,924 | £1,711,720 | £3,697,116 |
| North Northamptonshire | £437,503 | £6,313,783 | £6,751,285 | £30,296,688 |
| North Tyneside | £97,506 | £802,724 | £900,230 | £1,967,053 |
| Norwich | £427,825 | £3,191,580 | £3,619,404 | £13,040,595 |
| Oxford | £190,830 | £1,283,616 | £1,474,446 | £4,692,755 |
| Partnership for Urban South Hampshire | £578,000 | £5,336,386 | £5,914,386 | £22,073,297 |
| Peterborough | £15,000 | £3,866,918 | £3,881,918 | £18,540,147 |
| Plymouth | £415,915 | £3,101,084 | £3,516,999 | £11,922,591 |
| Poole | £188,300 | £1,411,407 | £1,599,708 | £5,287,577 |
| Reading | £200,000 | £1,568,080 | £1,768,080 | £6,214,856 |
| Redbridge | £100,568 | £1,640,605 | £1,741,173 | £8,764,376 |
| Reigate and Banstead | £184,701 | £1,384,701 | £1,569,402 | £5,715,470 |
| Shoreham | £129,435 | £1,043,467 | £1,172,902 | £2,531,465 |
| Shrewsbury and Atcham | £140,000 | £1,134,930 | £1,274,930 | £5,085,268 |
| South and East Durham | £133,638 | £1,030,603 | £1,164,241 | £2,534,469 |
| South East Northumberland | £105,891 | £869,999 | £975,890 | £2,123,882 |
| St. Albans | £58,233 | £717,195 | £775,428 | £2,427,151 |
| St. Edmundsbury | £102,312 | £1,033,373 | £1,135,685 | £5,064,955 |
| Stafford | £109,436 | £897,083 | £1,006,519 | £2,187,302 |
| Stevenage and North Hertfordshire | £166,522 | £1,384,958 | £1,551,480 | £7,795,712 |
| Swindon | £378,881 | £2,826,281 | £3,205,163 | £11,817,317 |
| Taunton | £300,698 | £2,248,263 | £2,548,962 | £9,216,142 |
| Tees Valley | £255,289 | £1,992,209 | £2,247,498 | £4,855,790 |
| Teignbridge | £107,930 | £885,575 | £993,504 | £2,160,354 |
| Telford | £264,010 | £1,970,358 | £2,234,368 | £8,301,933 |
| Thetford | £235,191 | £1,760,762 | £1,995,953 | £7,001,688 |
| Torbay | £176,232 | £1,319,024 | £1,495,257 | £5,411,857 |
| Truro | £174,457 | £1,308,685 | £1,483,142 | £5,336,832 |
| Waltham Forest | £166,707 | £1,445,180 | £1,611,887 | £7,690,737 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | £90,576 | £845,142 | £935,718 | £4,423,017 |
| West Cheshire | £137,906 | £1,108,192 | £1,246,099 | £2,733,022 |
| West Northamptonshire | £0 | £7,065,393 | £7,065,393 | £33,187,980 |
| West of England | £392,637 | £3,721,661 | £4,114,298 | £18,489,020 |
| Worcester | £170,000 | £1,323,785 | £1,493,785 | £3,700,496 |

*Did not bid for capital funding in 2010-11 as part of their programme of development.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Autumn Performance Report

**The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** I am pleased to announce the publication of my Department's Autumn Performance Report.

We report strong progress against our public service agreement to deliver a successful and inspirational Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012 that provide for a sustainable legacy and get more children and young people taking part in high-quality PE and sport. That is also one of our departmental strategic objectives.

We are maintaining decent progress against our other Departmental Strategic Objectives—the digital switchover programme is on track and more data is becoming available to assess enjoyment of and excellence in culture, media and sport. I expect to be in a position to report more fully on them next year.

We continue to maintain a strong track record of delivering value for money savings. We have significantly exceeded our Lyons relocation target and maintain good progress towards our comprehensive spending review 2007 value for money target.

A copy of the Autumn Performance Report will be deposited in the House Libraries.

## DEFENCE

### Future Rotary Wing Strategy

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth):** I am today announcing a new strategy that will see the Ministry of Defence deliver increased levels of helicopter capability for our armed forces. The strategy's priority is support to operations, and through it we will deliver, by 2016, an increase of some 40 per cent. in the number of helicopters suitable for deployment in hot and high conditions, such as Afghanistan.

At the heart of the strategy is the procurement of an additional 22 new Chinook helicopters, with a further two expected to replace those that were destroyed in Afghanistan this summer. The current Chinook fleet has seen continuous service on operations over the last 20 years, and it has performed superbly in Afghanistan. It is a proven capability that is highly regarded by those who fly it and troops who use it. Delivery of these aircraft will not only mean more aircraft able to operate in the kind of conditions seen in Afghanistan but also a significant increase in the overall lift capacity of our helicopter fleet. We anticipate delivery of 10 new build Chinook during the course of 2012 and 2013, including two to replace the aircraft recently lost in Afghanistan. The proposed investment in these new Chinook builds on the £400 million that the Ministry of Defence has invested this year to improve the operational performance of the existing Chinook fleet by delivering enhanced engines and cockpits.

Beyond increasing levels of capability, our other main focus has been on simplifying the delivery of helicopter capability. As the HCDC set out in its recent report, Helicopter Capability (HC434), the optimum means to achieve efficiencies is through reducing the number of different types of helicopter fleet; with each fleet type comes an associated support cost overhead and training cost. The new strategy will enable the Department to reduce the number of fleet types.

We aim to remove all marks of our Sea King fleet by 2016, with its roles to be delivered by our Merlin helicopter fleet or, in the case of UK peacetime search and rescue capabilities, by a joint private finance initiative service that we intend to provide with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. To enable this transition, we intend to capitalise on our past investment in Merlin and its over-water capabilities and safety features, including by modifying our Merlin Mk3/3a helicopters to enable them to operate effectively from amphibious shipping as well as continuing to contribute to our battlefield lift requirements.

The £300 million Puma life extension programme, which will deliver a step change in the aircraft's capability, will proceed, delivering vital battlefield lift capability for operations alongside Chinook until at least 2022. Beyond the retirement of Puma, we intend that the Ministry of Defence will operate four broadly equal-sized core helicopter fleets comprising Chinook, Apache, Wildcat and Merlin, with much smaller niche fleets for specialised roles. As a result of the measures set out above, we do not intend to proceed with the future medium helicopter competition.

We anticipate that the reduction in fleet types will produce substantial through-life cost savings over the next decade and beyond. We are also exploring the possibility of further benefits that might arise through, for example, estate rationalisation and the more efficient delivery of training solutions.

Although the major components of this strategy will be subject in due course to separate investment decisions, the new approach represents excellent news for the overall helicopter capability available to our armed forces and provides industry with a clear vision of our investment priorities over the coming decade against which they can align their resources. While a significant percentage of the planned investment will be made on a US product (Chinook), we anticipate that much of the investment required to deliver other elements of the strategy will be made in the UK, supporting UK jobs, and sustaining essential onshore skills as well as delivering value for money.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### EU Energy Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney):** My noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change today made the following statement:

> I represented the United Kingdom at the EU Energy Council in Brussels on 7 December 2009.
>
> The first item on the agenda was an update from the Swedish presidency on the energy efficiency package (made up of separate directives on the energy performance of buildings; the indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by energy related products; and the labelling of tyres with respect to fuel efficiency). The presidency noted that the package was close to final agreement. The UK is happy with the progress made on these directives.
>
> The Commission reported on progress on the proposal for a regulation on the security of gas supply. This was followed by a policy debate in which member states commented on the current draft of the proposal, in particular responding to questions about the roles and responsibilities of different actors in preparing for and during an emergency, of the need for mandatory infrastructure and supply standards; and the definition of protected customers. The UK raised concerns over some of the powers envisaged for the Commission.
>
> There was also an exchange of views on the recent Commission communication on investing in the development of low-carbon technologies under the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan. The UK indicated that it shared its support for the SET Plan but raised concerns over the sources of funding for the programme in the current financial climate.
>
> In addition, the Commission updated Ministers on progress in a number of other areas, including implementation of the European economic recovery package, the Baltic Energy market integration programme and the regulation on the notification of investment projects in energy infrastructure within the European community. Some delegations used the opportunity to raise concerns about biomass sustainability criteria. Finally, the Spanish Minister outlined the energy priorities for Spain's forthcoming presidency. These included a new energy action plan for 2010-14, a focus on

renewables, energy efficiency, low-carbon technologies, relations with external energy suppliers and further progress on current legislation.

Over lunch, Ministers discussed a number of items on international relations in the field of energy including relations between Ukraine and Russia.

Separately, Ljubljana was selected as the seat for the agency for the co-operation of energy regulators, following a vote.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Exotic Diseases of Animals

**The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jim Fitzpatrick):** The national contingency plan for exotic diseases of animals will be laid before Parliament today in accordance with Section 14a of the Animal Health Act 2002 which came into force on 24 March 2003.

This plan sets out the operational response arrangements DEFRA will put in place to deal with any occurrence of foot and mouth disease, avian influenza or Newcastle disease. The plan is also applicable to all other exotic diseases of animals. It is composed of two elements:

> DEFRA's framework response plan for exotic diseases of animals, outlining the systems and structures which are established and detailing the key roles and responsibilities of Ministers and officials during an outbreak of disease; and
>
> DEFRA's overview of emergency preparedness which provides details of our preparedness and operational response.

It replaces DEFRA's contingency plan for exotic animal diseases which was laid before Parliament on 9 December 2008.

DEFRA's contingency plan is very much a "living document". It will be subject to ongoing revision taking on the latest developments in science, research, and epidemiological modelling together with lessons identified from outbreaks.

To meet the provisions of the Animal Health Act, the plan will also be subject to formal annual review.

### Pitt Review (Government Response)

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** I am placing copies of the Government's second update report detailing the progress made in implementing the recommendations contained in Sir Michael Pitt's report on the 2007 summer floods in the Libraries of both Houses today.

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/risk/floodreview2007.htm

We continue to make significant progress. We have introduced our Flood and Water Management Bill which implements Pitt recommendations that require legislation, and will strengthen co-ordination, improve accountability and reduce the impact of future floods.

In advance of the Bill becoming law, we have taken action to help communities at risk of flooding. We have, for example:

> Set up a £7.7 million Flood Forecasting Centre, jointly run by the Environment Agency and the Met Office, which is already providing important services to local authorities and emergency responders, helping them to be better prepared for potential flooding;
>
> Strengthened arrangements for local and national co-ordination in the event of an emergency, as recently tested in Cumbria—for example through publishing updated emergency response and recovery guidance;
>
> Announced that local communities across England will benefit from £16 million funding to help them tackle surface water flooding, including £9.7 million made available to 77 local authorities for areas where the risk and potential impact of surface water flooding could be highest;
>
> Issued guidance to regulators on protecting essential services; local action includes reinforced defences at Mythe water treatment works in Gloucestershire and flood defences at East and West Hull sewage pumping stations;
>
> Invested in building capacity, including funding local authority places for the Environment Agency's flood management foundation degree and developing an NVQ level 2 and 3 course on flood risk management;

Delivered, through the Environment Agency:

> 106 flood defence schemes protecting over 63,800 additional homes in England.
>
> 140,000 additional people signed up to receive flood warnings in England and Wales: and the introduction of "opt out" telephone warning systems in February 2010 will significantly increase that number.
>
> Doubled our overall investment in flood and coastal erosion risk management in the last ten years to a record £2.15 billion over the current three-year spending period.

The progress report explains the further steps we are taking to implement Sir Michael's recommendations. The risk of flooding remains and the recent events in Cumbria underline once again the importance of this work. The Government remain determined to enable us to better able anticipate and deal with the impact of flooding.

I will continue to keep the House informed of progress through future progress reports.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### EU General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council

**The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant):** The General Affairs Council (GAC) and Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) was held on 7/8 December in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary represented the UK.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The full text of conclusions adopted, including 'A' points, can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/111832.pdf

*Preparation of the 10-11 December European Council*

On economic issues, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary emphasised that governance of the financial markets was a global issue, not just an internal matter for Europe. He stated that the EU should take account of the International Monetary Fund work on renewing the "social contract" between the financial institutions and wider society, including by ensuring that the financial sector bear the full costs associated with its activities. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary congratulated the presidency for their help in resolving the financial supervision and regulation package.

On climate change, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary underscored the importance of tackling this issue against the backdrop of the Copenhagen conference of parties. He called for the European Council conclusions to reinforce the EU's commitment to the Kyoto protocol, and to be clearer and more specific on climate financing.

On external relations, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, with support from a number of member states, argued for a European Council declaration on Afghanistan, reflecting President Obama's 1 December announcement on troop reinforcements, and the London conference in January 2010. The presidency agreed to draft a declaration, which was discussed at the FAC on 8 December. We also requested conclusions language on development assistance.

*Enlargement*

Ministers adopted conclusions, which the Government broadly support, welcoming the Commission communication dated 14 October 2009 entitled "Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2009-2010". Broadly, the conclusions took stock of progress in accession negotiations with Turkey and Croatia, while urging both countries to implement outstanding reforms.

On Turkey, the Council welcomed recent initiatives including on the Kurdish issue and recognised that Turkey is an important regional player, playing a key role in energy supply. However, it expressed disappointment that Turkey has not yet fulfilled its obligation to open its ports to trade with Cyprus under the additional protocol to the association agreement and agreed that further efforts are needed to accelerate the pace of Turkey's accession negotiations. On Croatia, the Council commended progress made but stressed further efforts are needed to meet accession criteria in order to be able to conclude negotiations in 2010.

On Croatia's cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) the Council welcomed the creation of a new investigative task force, noted that substantial progress had not been reported, and called on Croatia to take the necessary steps to complete a comprehensive and credible investigation into missing documents without further delay. On Iceland, the Council noted their application for EU membership in July and agreed to come back to the issue when the Commission presents its assessment on whether Iceland is ready to open accession negotiations.

The Council reaffirmed EU support for the European perspective of the western Balkans; noted that the office of the ICTY prosecutor was content with Serbia's current levels of effort in their cooperation, and that the EU would start implementing the interim agreement; welcomed the fact that Macedonia had substantially addressed the key priorities of the accession partnership, noting the Commission's recommendation to open accession negotiations and agreeing to return to the matter during the next presidency; expressed concern about political developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and called on its leaders to speed up key reforms; welcomed the Commission's study on furthering Kosovo's political and socio-economic development and invited the Commission to take the necessary measures to support Kosovo's progress towards the EU; and welcomed progress in Albania and Montenegro, while urging the countries to intensify efforts on reforms in a number of areas and agreeing to return to their membership applications once the Commission had presented its "Avis" (opinions).

*EU Disaster Management*

Ministers approved a presidency report on reinforcing the EU's capacity for preventing and responding to disasters, which the Government support while recognising the primary role of national responsibility in disaster management.

*Trio Programme of the Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies*

Spain, Belgium and Hungary briefly presented their programme, looked forward to chairing the GAC under their presidencies, and to close co-operation with the President of the European Council and the High Representative. The Government welcome the Trio's emphasis on finalising the international climate change negotiations, putting in place a Lisbon strategy fit to take the EU beyond the aftermath of the economic crisis and bringing Europe closer to its citizens.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COUNCIL

The full text of all conclusions adopted can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/111833.pdf

*Western Balkans*

The presidency briefed on the EU/US initiative to unblock progress on reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ministers held an exchange of views on the future of EUFOR Operation Althea. They agreed to revert to the latter at their next meeting in January.

*Iran*

Ministers also approved a draft European Council declaration on Iran which draws attention to Iran's continued failure to comply with international obligations and signals the EU's readiness to begin a new phase of work on the pressure side of the dual-track approach, which the Government welcome.

*Middle East Peace Process*

Ministers agreed conclusions that called for the resumption of negotiations leading to a two-state solution within an agreed time-frame; referred to Jerusalem as the future capital of two states and declared that the EU will not recognise any changes to the pre-1967 borders; emphasised the importance of the United States' efforts; welcomed and encouraged Palestinian efforts on state-building and improving law and order; reiterated commitment towards the security of Israel and its full integration into the region; and welcomed and encouraged Israel's steps to ease restrictions of movement in the West Bank.

*Afghanistan*

Ministers agreed to forward the presidency's draft declaration to the December European Council for adoption, which the Government welcome. The declaration notes that an international conference is to be held in London in January 2010, underscores the EU's readiness to support President Karzai in meeting his commitments, and highlights the need to maintain a comprehensive approach to the challenges in Afghanistan, building on a combination of political/civilian development and military instruments.

*Burma*

France briefly raised the EU approach to Burma. The presidency underlined that EU action was in train.

*AOB: Honduras*

Spain called on the EU to monitor progress on reconciliation, as well as the views of the US and key states in the region, and keep the situation under review.

*A points*

The Council adopted the following conclusions or decisions without discussion:

Conclusions on Iraq

Conclusions on Horn of Africa

Conclusions on Climate Change and International Security

Conclusions on promoting compliance with International Humanitarian Law

Conclusions on Human Rights and Democratisation in Third Countries

## Sri Lanka

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** Seven months have now passed since the end of the conflict in Sri Lanka. I would like to update the House on developments in the humanitarian and political situation in Sri Lanka.

*Humanitarian*

Since the end of the conflict the UK has focused its efforts on securing an improvement in the humanitarian situation. The end of the fighting in May left over 280,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps in northern Sri Lanka. The UK's approach to the situation has been fourfold: to advocate for improvements in conditions in the camps so that they meet international standards; to push for the early and safe return of IDPs to their home areas; to support, with the Department for International Development's (DFID) allocation of £12.5 million since September 2008, the vital work of the humanitarian agencies that have been providing assistance to the IDPs; and to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to allow those not yet resettled to have the ability to enjoy unrestricted freedom of movement.

Conditions in the camps have improved to the extent that basic needs are now generally being met. In recent weeks there has been some progress in the return of IDPs. As of 6 December, the UN has confirmed that over 158,000 IDPs have been released. Of this number approximately 29,000 vulnerable people had been transferred to host families or institutions. This leaves less than 112,000 people in the Menik farm site and less than 15,000 people in camps in other locations. It is important that IDPs continue to be able to return to their home areas as soon as it is safe to do so. When I spoke to Foreign Minister Bogollogama on 29 October and 4 November, he confirmed that the Government of Sri Lanka was committed to returning those still in the camps. In order to assist this process, the Government have been funding the work of demining non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as Mines Advisory Group and HALO trust to help make areas safe for return. We will continue to help clear landmines, to provide transport from the camps and to help civilians to restart their lives so they can return home quickly and safely.

The recent announcement by the Sri Lankan Government that, as of 1 December, all remaining IDPs have been granted freedom of movement is a positive step. We hope this leads to unrestricted freedom of movement for all IDPs as soon as possible. As the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Worcester (Mr. Foster), made clear in his statement of 28 November, we believe the opening of the camps and granting of real freedom of movement will enable the thousands still living in the camps to start to rebuild their lives. We welcome the fact that a number of national NGOs have now been granted access to some areas where IDPs are returning to such as Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Mannar and Jaffna in the north. The recent announcement by the Governor of the Northern Province that international NGOs will also be allowed to work in these areas on agreed projects is also welcome. It is imperative that all humanitarian agencies are given full access to all IDPs, including ex combatants, so that they can provide them with the help and protection they need both in the camps and in places of return.

*Political*

Beyond the immediate humanitarian concerns the UK has underlined to the Government of Sri Lanka the importance of securing genuine reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities.

At the end of May the Sri Lankan president issued a joint statement with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recognising the need to work towards a lasting political solution. The UK has consistently maintained that one of the prerequisites for lasting peace in Sri Lanka is a political settlement that fully takes into account the legitimate grievances and aspirations of all communities. Presidential elections have now been announced for 26 January 2010. Parliamentary elections in spring 2010 will be a further opportunity for the voice of Sri Lanka's communities to be heard. Free, fair and credible elections will allow Sri Lanka's communities to have their say in shaping the country's future. Adequate arrangements must be made to ensure IDPs can vote in upcoming elections. It is important for all those who want to play a role in Sri Lanka's future to agree to an inclusive political solution that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict.

The EU has made clear its belief that accountability is integral to the process of reconciliation. We therefore welcome President Rajapakse's decision to appoint an independent committee to look into the incidents cited in the US State Department's report. We will continue to press the Government of Sri Lanka to live up to this and his earlier commitment made to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in May to take measures to address possible violations of international humanitarian law.

*GSP+ (General System of Preferences plus) /Human Rights*

The EU's GSP+ trade preference scheme is intended to provide vulnerable economies with incentives to achieve standards in sustainable development, human rights, labour standards and good governance. Beneficiary countries are required to implement effectively certain international human rights conventions. On 19 October 2009 the European Commission published a report of its investigation into Sri Lanka's compliance with three of these conventions. The report was clear about Sri Lanka's failings in the implementation of the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the convention on the rights of the child. This report has reinforced our serious concerns over the human rights situation in Sri Lanka and we share the Commission's assessment. The Commission is expected to issue its formal recommendation on Sri Lanka's continued access to the GSP+ scheme shortly. We are clear that, in order to continue enjoying access to the GSP+, Sri Lanka must meet fully its human rights obligations. I have urged the Government of Sri Lanka to take urgent action to address the issues raised by the Commission in its report such as the lack of effective investigations into alleged disappearances and the need to uphold the right to freedom of expression. As EU Foreign Ministers made clear in our conclusions of 27 October, the EU will maintain a dialogue with Sri Lanka on the steps necessary to address the problems highlighted by the Commission's investigation, in order to effectively implement the conventions.

*Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)*

When the Heads of Commonwealth Governments met in Port of Spain in November members agreed that Australia will host CHOGM in 2011. The most important thing for the UK was that the host for each Commonwealth summit demonstrably embodies our shared values—including respect for human rights and democracy. While we welcome the recent progress on freedom of movement for IDPs in Sri Lanka, given our ongoing concerns about the humanitarian and human rights situation at the time, the UK was unable to support Sri Lanka's bid to host CHOGM in 2011. However Commonwealth leaders accepted the President of Sri Lanka's offer to host the summit in 2013.

*Conclusion*

We have regularly made clear our view that the Government of Sri Lanka has a unique opportunity—and duty—to work for genuine political reconciliation. As a measure of the UK's ongoing commitment to the future of Sri Lanka, we remain at the forefront of international efforts to help ensure lasting peace there. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's special envoy for Sri Lanka, and my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) continues to engage the Tamil Diaspora and he has updated hon. Members on his recent activities.

We will continue to work directly with the Government of Sri Lanka and with international partners including the EU, UN and Commonwealth, to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to resolve the underlying causes of the conflict through an inclusive political process which addresses the legitimate grievances and aspirations of all communities—Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Community Safety Accreditation Schemes

**The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson):** An employers' guide to community safety accreditation schemes and the 2009 audit of community safety accreditation schemes have been published today.

This year's community safety accreditation schemes audit shows an increase in the number of participating forces from 23 in 2008 to 26 this year. The Metropolitan Police was one of the three forces to begin operating a scheme. Over the same period, the number of accredited persons rose from 1406 to 1667 (an 18.5 per cent. rise) and the number of employers with accredited persons rose from 95 to 109. This growth reflects the benefits of the scheme for the police and businesses. Accredited persons help to tackle anti-social behaviour, to provide a visible and reassuring presence on our streets.

The employers' guide is intended to improve the information available to employers about the scheme and to raise its profile. Four employer case studies (presented in the employers' guide) demonstrate clear benefits, both for the organisation and for the accredited staff, in greater information sharing and closer partnership with the police.

Copies of the audit and the guide are available on the Home Office website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk and in the House Library.

### Control Order Powers

**The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson):** Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

Control orders continue to be an essential tool to protect the public from terrorism, particularly where it is not possible to prosecute individuals for terrorism-related activity and, in the case of foreign nationals, where they cannot be removed from the UK.

As stated in previous quarterly statements on control orders, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold Control Order Review Groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During this reporting period, six CORGs were held in relation to the orders currently in force. In addition, further meetings were held on an ad hoc basis as specific issues arose.

During the period 11 September 2009 to 10 December 2009, three non-derogating control orders have been made and served. No control orders have been renewed in accordance with section 2(6) of the 2005 Act in this reporting period. In this reporting period there have been six revocations of control orders that were in force. Three control orders were revoked because it was not possible to meet the disclosure test set out in the June 2009 House of Lords judgment (*AF & Others*) on article 6 of the European convention of human rights (ECHR) (right to a fair trial). One of these orders was not replaced. In the other two cases new non-derogating control orders with significantly reduced obligations were imposed in their place; the Government argued before the court that in such cases article 6 was not engaged—or, even if it was, the level of disclosure required in *AF & Others* did not apply. Two control orders were revoked because they were no longer considered necessary. One control order was revoked on the order of the court. In addition to the six revocations of current control orders, one non-derogating control order previously made but not served was also revoked in this quarter.

In total, 12 control orders are currently in force, nine of which are in respect of British citizens. Seven individuals subject to a control order live in the Metropolitan Police Service area; the remaining individuals live in other police force areas. All of these control orders are non-derogating. There were no prosecutions for breaching a control order during this reporting period however one individual was charged with seven counts for breach of a control order obligation.

During this reporting period, 77 modifications of control order obligations were made. 29 requests to modify control order obligations were refused.

Section 10(1) of the 2005 Act provides a right of appeal against a decision by the Secretary of State to renew a non-derogating control order or to modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order without consent. One appeal under section 10(1) of the 2005 Act has been lodged with the High Court during this reporting period. A right of appeal is also provided for by section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against decisions by the Secretary of State to refuse a request by a controlled person to revoke their order and/or to modify any obligation under the order. During this reporting period four appeals have been lodged with the High Court under section 10(3) of the 2005 Act.

Six interlocutory judgments were handed down by the High Court during this reporting period in relation to disclosure required to make control order judicial review proceedings under section 3(10) of the 2005 Act compliant with article 6 following the June 2009 House of Lords judgment in *AF & Others*.

Two of these judgments were handed down in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v BB & BC*. In the first judgment, handed down on 5 October 2009 in closed only, the court required the Secretary of State to make further disclosure in order to ensure compliance with article 6 despite the court's acknowledgement that the disclosure of this material would cause damage to the public interest. The Secretary of State elected not to make the disclosure identified. Both control orders were revoked and new control orders with significantly reduced obligations were imposed. In the second judgment, handed down on 11 November 2009, the court found that, notwithstanding the new control orders impose less stringent obligations, article 6 applied and that the House of Lords in *AF & Others* had identified an "irreducible minimum" of disclosure which must be made in all control order cases regardless of the stringency of the obligations. The court granted the Secretary of State permission to appeal and an appeal has been lodged.

A further two judgments were handed down in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v AS*. At the hearing on 6 and 8 October 2009, the court handed down a judgment in closed only requiring the Secretary of State to make further damaging disclosure to comply with article 6 or to withdraw reliance on the relevant allegations. The Secretary of State elected to make some further disclosure to maintain the control order in force. In an open judgment handed down on 21 October 2009 the court set out the principles of how the court should apply the decision in *AF & Others*.

An interlocutory judgment was handed down in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v AN* on 27 November 2009. The court handed down a judgment in closed only requiring the Secretary of State to make further damaging disclosure to comply with article 6 or to withdraw reliance on the relevant allegations. The Secretary of State elected to make some further disclosure to maintain the control order in force.

A further interlocutory judgment was handed down, about which it is not possible to say any more for legal reasons.

Two judgments have been handed down by the High Court in relation to modification appeals during this reporting period. The court handed down judgment in *Secretary of State for the Home Department v BH* on 17 November 2009. The court found that the Secretary of State's decision to refuse to modify BH's geographical boundary to let him attend legal appointment outside his boundary was lawful. This was against the background that the Secretary of State had offered to modify the control order to allow the visit subject to BH agreeing to submit to a personal search as part of a police escort to and from the appointment. BH had refused to agree to this condition and the Secretary of State had therefore refused the modification. The court decided this refusal was lawful, noting that BH's legal representatives were able to visit him within his boundary instead. However, he commented that in circumstances where it would not be proportionate to refuse to modify the boundary for a purpose such as attending an urgent medical appointment, the Secretary of State would not be able to insist that a controlled person be escorted by the police, if the police would not escort the individual without searching him first.

The court handed down a judgment in *Secretary of State for the Home Department v AS* on 23 November 2009. The court dismissed AS's appeal against the decision of the Secretary of State to refuse to modify his control order to enable him to stay overnight in London during the judicial review hearing of his control order.

During this reporting period, the Court of Appeal refused permission to appeal in one case. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v AU*, the Court of Appeal found AU did not have any real prospect of success in his arguments that the judicial review of his control order had not been article 6 compliant and that when the Secretary of State decided to impose a control order in this case, he was not entitled to consider allegations which formed part of the previous criminal prosecution and sentence.

Full judgments are available at: http://www.bailii.org/

## Door Supervisors Training

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell):** I am pleased to announce the publication of a consultation document and partial impact assessment on enhanced (or top up) training for door supervisors renewing their licences.

Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office and in the House Library.

## Hillsborough Disaster

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson):** The Hillsborough tragedy on 15 April 1989 at the FA Cup semi final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest was the worst disaster in British sporting history. Ninety-six people died and hundreds more were injured. The tragedy was of such national and international significance that it served to act as a watershed in the subsequent minimisation of safety risks at football matches and similar sporting events.

There have been a number of examinations of the circumstances surrounding the disaster over the years. Following the 20th anniversary of the tragedy in April 2009, the Prime Minister asked the then Secretaries of State for the Home Office and for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Justice Secretary, to consider how to bring about maximum possible public disclosure of governmental and other agency documentation on the events that occurred and their aftermath. In order to bring about this disclosure I am today announcing the creation of the Hillsborough independent panel.

The Hillsborough independent panel will work in partnership with Government and other public agencies to oversee the disclosure process. It will also consult those most affected by the disaster: the Hillsborough families. The panel will be chaired by the right reverend James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool. The appointment of the rest of the panel will take place over the coming weeks in close consultation with the Hillsborough families and will be announced in due course. The panel will meet for the first time in Liverpool as soon as possible in the new year.

The independent panel will be provided with access to Hillsborough documentation held by Government and local agencies relevant to events surrounding the tragedy in advance of the normal 30-year point for public disclosure. The fundamental principles will be full disclosure of documentation and no redaction of content, except in the limited legal and other circumstances outlined in the full terms of reference and disclosure protocol which will be placed in the Library of the House and made available on the Home Office website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk.

Recognising the volume of material that must be catalogued, analysed and preserved, the panel will seek to complete its work within two years.

The remit of the independent panel will be to:

oversee full public disclosure of relevant government and local information within the limited constraints set out in the disclosure protocol;

consult with the Hillsborough families to ensure that the views of those most affected by the tragedy are taken into account;

manage the process of public disclosure, ensuring that it takes place initially to the families of the victims and other involved parties, in an agreed manner and within a reasonable timescale, before information is made more widely available;

in line with established practice, work with the Keeper of Public Records in preparing options for establishing an archive of Hillsborough documentation, including a catalogue of all central governmental and local public agency information and a commentary on any information withheld for the benefit of the families or on le[illegible] other grounds;

produce a report explaining the work of the panel and the extent to which disclosure adds to public understanding of the tragedy and its aftermath.

Where Government records are covered by the well established convention on access to papers of a previous administration—in particular papers which indicate the views of Ministers, such as Cabinet material or ministerial policy advice—representatives of the previous administration are being consulted and their consent to release of those papers sought.

## Identity Cards

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier):** I am pleased to announce the extension of the national identity service from the beginning of January 2010.

On 30 June, the Home Secretary confirmed that we would accelerate the roll-out of identity cards by extending the initial coverage from Greater Manchester to other locations in the north-west of England early in 2010. Following a successful implementation of the national identity service in Greater Manchester and at Manchester and London City airports on 30 November, the next phase of the roll-out will be commenced from Monday 4 January 2010. From that date, most citizens living or working in the north-west will be eligible to make applications for identity cards at a fee of £30.

Initially, they will be able to apply at the offices of the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) in Manchester city centre. From February 2010, they will also be able to apply at new enrolment facilities in existing IPS offices in Liverpool and Blackburn.

To find out more about identity cards, register interest in obtaining a card or to request an application pack, visit: www.direct.gov.uk/identity or call 0300 330 0000.

## UK Border Agency (Chief Inspector's Report)

**The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas):** The first annual report of the independent Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency, John Vine, is being laid before Parliament today. The post and role of independent Chief Inspector was created in the Borders Act 2007 and extended in the Borders Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 to reflect the wider role of the new agency. The key focus of the Chief Inspector is the efficiency and effectiveness of the UK Border Agency. The role provides an external, independent and transparent assessment of the Agency and helps to provides reassurance to Parliament and the public. I therefore welcome this account of the first year's work of the Chief Inspector. The annual report sets out the work of the Chief Inspector in establishing his inspection methodology, inspection plan and staffing since the role commenced in July 2008 and summarises the findings from six early inspections. Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office.

### Interim CCTV Regulator

**The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson):** I am today announcing the arrangements we are putting in place to take forward implementation of the national CCTV strategy and to approve an interim CCTV regulator with immediate effect.

CCTV enjoys a high level of public confidence in tackling crime. Home Office research published in 2005 showed that over 80 per cent. of respondents supported the use of CCTV to deal with crime in their neighbourhood. A similar high level of confidence is reflected in the Ipsos MORI poll conducted last year and which we will be publishing shortly. CCTV played a key role in a number of investigations including the London terrorist outrages in July 2005 and the Steven Wright murders in Ipswich as well as offences such as burglaries, robberies, violence and antisocial behaviour across the country. The changes are aimed at ensuring that those involved across the CCTV industry, whether from the public or the private sector, can be actively involved in the development and implementation of national standards on the installation and use of CCTV. Importantly, it also aims to maximise public engagement by raising public awareness of the benefits of CCTV and accountability of owners and users of CCTV systems.

It is important that we retain and build on that high level of public confidence by demonstrating the important contribution to preventing and detecting crime and antisocial behaviour which CCTV can make. We have already announced in Building Britain's Future that we will make sure that local people have a say on the use of CCTV in their area and will be publishing guidance for crime and disorder reduction partnerships next year on communicating with their community on the role of CCTV in public protection.

It is also important that we address public concern about how CCTV is used. I am, therefore, pleased to announce the appointment of the Forensic Science Regulator, Andrew Rennison, as the interim CCTV regulator with immediate effect. The interim CCTV regulator will advise the Government on matters surrounding the use of CCTV in public places, including the need for a regulatory framework overseen by a permanent CCTV regulator, which enables the police, local authorities and other agencies to help deliver safer neighbourhoods while ensuring that personal privacy considerations are appropriately taken into account with supporting safeguards and protections. The establishment of a permanent CCTV regulator would rightly be a matter for Parliament. That is why we are, at this stage, considering the regulatory arrangements function through an interim appointment and the revised governance structure for implementation of the national CCTV strategy.

The interim appointment will be for a period of up to 12 months. The appointment is an important step in implementation of the national CCTV strategy. The interim regulator will work with the national CCTV strategy board on six key areas. These are to: develop national standards for the installation and use of CCTV in public space; determine training requirements for users and practitioners; engage with the public and private sector in determining the need for and potential content of any regulatory framework; raise public awareness and understanding of how CCTV operates and how it contributes to tackling crime and increasing public protection; review the existing recommendations of the national CCTV strategy and advise the strategy board on implementation, timelines and cost and development of an effective evidence base; and promote public awareness of the complaints process and criteria for complaints to the relevant agencies ( for example, Information Commissioner, local authority or private organisation) or how to deal with complaints relating to technical standards.

The appointment of the Forensic Science Regulator will bring to his CCTV role the expertise, knowledge, and standing he has gained in operating a suitable framework for forensic services. He will play a leading role in identifying and helping meet the needs of both users and the public.

While the interim CCTV regulator will not have responsibility for deciding whether individual cameras are appropriately sited or how they are used, he will be able to help explain to the public how they can complain about intrusive or ineffective CCTV placement or usage.

Part of the process of promoting greater accountability is engaging directly with key stakeholders. We will shortly be establishing an independent advisory group with representatives from business, CCTV operators, community and third sector groups to monitor and provide direction on implementing the national strategy. The advisory group will advise the interim CCTV regulator and the national CCTV strategy board. These arrangements provide for partnership working at strategic and neighbourhood level. Through these new arrangements, we intend to ensure that CCTV continues to be an important tool available to communities to help tackle crime and antisocial behaviour.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Autumn Performance Report

**The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander):** I have today laid before Parliament my Department's autumn performance report for 2009. The report is in the Library of the House and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

The report provides details of progress on DFID's departmental strategic objectives and value for money as well as progress on Public Service Agreement 29: Reduce poverty in poorer countries through quicker progress towards the millennium development goals.

### St. Helena

**The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander):** I have carefully considered the views received in response to the public consultation on air access for St. Helena. I have also considered the reasonableness of proceeding with funding an airport in the prevailing economic conditions and the urgent requirements upon the Department to protect vulnerable countries around the world from the impact of the global downturn.

The present calls on DFID funding, and the current economic conditions, mean that proceeding with the project would not be appropriate at this time. DFID is committed to supporting the people of St. Helena and so, rather than make a decision at this juncture, I have instructed my officials to conduct a further analysis of two particular issues that have been brought to my attention through the consultation, and require more detailed scrutiny:

potential cost savings to the airport contract which might be enabled by recent technological developments

options for funding the capital cost of the airport through a possible public private partnership.

In addition, my officials will also analyse further the costs and options for a replacement ship.

I expect this to take around six months and will make a further statement when it is complete.

The director responsible for the overseas territories will be visiting St. Helena in the first quarter of 2010 to discuss this announcement with both Government and private sector.

## JUSTICE

### Bernard Lodge

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Claire Ward):** I have today laid before Parliament the report of the inquiry that the Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, Member for Dewsbury (Shahid Malik) announced on 23 February 2009 into the death of Bernard Lodge, who died at HMP Manchester on 28 August 1998.

I would like to thank the Chair of the inquiry, Barbara Stow, and the solicitor to the inquiry for the way in which they handled the inquiry and for fulfilling the terms of reference so efficiently.

### Civil Law Reform Bill

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice):** In accordance with the Government's legislative programme for 2009-2010, the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor has today laid before Parliament the draft Civil Law Reform Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny (Civil Law Reform—A Draft Bill Cm 7773).

The draft Bill contains provisions to:

reform the law of damages to provide a fairer and more modern system, particularly in relation to bereavement and dependency damages under the Fatal Accidents Act 1976.

give greater flexibility in setting the interest rate on pre-judgment debt and damages and on judgment debts so that it can be adapted more readily to different circumstances, making it fairer to debtors and creditors alike.

reform the law relating to the distribution of estates of a deceased person where an inheritance is forfeited or disclaimed, so that where a person is disqualified or refuses an inheritance, his or her heirs are not disinherited.

bring the disciplinary hearing appeal process for barristers into line with the appeal process for solicitors by transferring the jurisdiction to hear appeals to the High Court.

To accompany the command paper the Ministry of Justice has today published a consultation paper Civil Law Reform—a draft Bill containing the draft Bill, the accompanying explanatory notes and the impact assessments relating to the reform. The consultation period will close on 9 February 2010.

### FOI Quarterly Monitoring Statistics

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills):** Today I have deposited copies of "The Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Statistics on implementation in Central Government: Q3 - July - September 2009" in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

This is the quarterly monitoring statistics report analysing the performance of central Government in the fifth full year of freedom of information.

### House of Lords (Commonwealth and Republic of Ireland Citizens)

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills):** My noble friend the Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, has made the following written ministerial statement:

During the debate on 10 December in the House of Lords—on the Commonwealth's shared goals in democracy and development—Baroness Gardner of Parkes asked about eligibility of Commonwealth and Republic of Ireland citizens for membership of the House of Lords. The Government undertook to set out the background to the issue in more detail and to legislate before the end of the current session of Parliament to remove any uncertainty. The Government's firm view is that nothing in the current circumstances prevents any Member of the House of Lords from membership or from taking a full part in the proceedings of the House.

It was suggested to the Government in April 2009 by the House authorities that the drafting of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act"), and modifications made by that Act to section 3 of the Act of Settlement 1701, could be interpreted to have inadvertently cast doubt on whether Commonwealth and Republic of Ireland citizens are eligible for membership of the House of Lords and to hold certain offices under the Crown.

The Government have been examining possible interpretations of the changes made by the 2006 Act carefully. Although one possible interpretation would have the effect which has caused concern, this was clearly not the intention of Parliament when passing the 2006 Act, and the Government would disagree with any suggestion that changes should be made in the way that eligibility is regarded.

The relevant provisions are complex. Section 18 of the 2006 Act included provisions about eligibility for membership of the House of Commons, which were intended to ensure that only persons with indefinite leave to remain in the UK are eligible to be Members of the House of Commons. The Act also extended this provision to elections to the European Parliament, the Greater London Authority, local authorities, and the devolved legislatures. The provision was enacted in response to concerns that elected representatives should be able to serve their term of office in full in the UK. The provision was commenced on 1 January 2007.

Section 18(7) of the 2006 Act repealed the first entry in Schedule 7 to the British Nationality Act 1981. That entry had modified the application of section 3 of the Act of Settlement which concerns eligibility for membership of both Houses of Parliament, the Privy Council and certain offices under the

Crown by disapplying part of it in relation to Commonwealth and Republic of Ireland citizens, allowing such citizens to be Members of either House and to hold offices under the Crown.

This change was made in consequence of the provision at section 18(1) of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, which substituted a new modification of section 3 of the Act of Settlement that applies only for the purposes of membership of the House of Commons: under its terms, Commonwealth citizens who do not have indefinite leave to remain in the UK are prevented from being Members of the House of Commons. However, since the drafting of the legislation did not contain provisions expressly saving the first entry in Schedule 7 to the British Nationality Act 1981 in relation to membership of the House of Lords and other offices under the Crown, a question has been raised about whether the eligibility of Commonwealth or Republic of Ireland citizens for membership of the House of Lords and other positions is affected.

Though it clearly was not the intention of Parliament in passing the 2006 Act to change the entitlement of Commonwealth and Republic of Ireland citizens to sit in the House of Lords, Ministers have concluded that it is best to put the issue beyond any doubt. Accordingly, we will introduce appropriate legislation before the end of the current Session of Parliament to remove any uncertainty on this issue. An amendment will be tabled to the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill, currently before the House of Commons, to achieve this.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Expedited Legislation (Explanatory Notes)

**The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman):** On 7 July the House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution published its report on "Fast-track Legislation: Constitutional Implications and Safeguards" (HL 116, 2008-09). The Government response was published on 7 December (HL 11, 2009-10).

The report recommended that, where the Government was proposing expedited legislation it should provide an explanation of why the legislation should be fast-tracked. The Government accept in principle the Committee's recommendation that, for all Bills which are to be passed with unusual expedition, an explanation of the reasons for using a fast-track procedure should be provided.

I am therefore informing the House that any future legislation which will be subject to expedited procedures will contain a full explanation in the accompanying explanatory notes to the legislation. The explanation will address the questions set out in paragraph 186 of the Committee's report:

(a) Why is fast-tracking necessary?

(b) What is the justification for fast-tracking each element of the Bill?

(c) What efforts have been made to ensure the amount of time made available for parliamentary scrutiny has been maximised?

(d) To what extent have interested parties and outside groups been given an opportunity to influence the policy proposal?

(e) Does the Bill include a sunset clause (as well as any appropriate renewal procedure)? If not, why do the Government judge that their inclusion is not appropriate?

(f) Are mechanisms for effective post-legislative scrutiny and review in place? If not, why do the Government judge that their inclusion is not appropriate?

(g) Has an assessment been made as to whether existing legislation is sufficient to deal with any or all of the issues in question?

(h) Have relevant parliamentary committees been given the opportunity to scrutinise the legislation?

The Video Recordings Bill which has been introduced in this House today is the first Bill to be fast-tracked since the Committee published its report. The explanatory notes of this Bill reflect the new approach.

### Parliamentary Pensions

**The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman):** The Government are committed to providing public service pension schemes that are affordable and sustainable in the long term, consistent with the principle of fairness for all taxpayers and between generations.

On 3 December I laid before Parliament amendments to the Parliamentary Pensions (Consolidation and Amendment) Regulations 1993. These amendments will bring in the cost-saving changes to the Parliamentary Pension Scheme which I announced in my statement of 31 March 2009 in accordance with the January 2008 recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body endorsed by the House on 24 January 2008. The package is judged by the Government Actuary to produce savings of 2.9 per cent. of payroll, which will reduce the Exchequer contribution to the scheme by approximately £1.4 million a year.

The House endorsed the cost-saving package on 25 June 2009 and also agreed that further changes should be brought forward to cap the Exchequer contribution for 2009-10 not at the 28.7 per cent. of payroll level recommended by the Senior Salaries Review Body, but at the lower 2008-9 level of 26.8 per cent.

At request of the Prime Minister, the Senior Salaries Review Body is currently undertaking a fundamental independent review of the Parliamentary pension arrangements. The Prime Minister has asked the Senior Salaries Review Body to consider the full range of options for reducing the Exchequer contribution and to consider, among other things, the merits of defined contribution or money purchase arrangements. The Senior Salaries Review Body aims to conclude its report by the end of the year. The Senior Salaries Review Body will take into account the cost-saving changes we have made, but its chairman has expressed concern that any proposals by the Government to make further such changes at this time could conflict with the Senior Salaries Review Body's recommendations and might appear to compromise its review. The Government's decision on any further proposals will be taken after the publication of the review. Where applicable, those proposals will be informed by the Senior Salaries Review Body's recommendations and will, in compliance with the House of Commons' resolution of 25 June, have the effect of freezing the Exchequer contribution for 2009-10 at the 2008-09 level as a percentage of payroll.

## TRANSPORT

### Bus Service Operators Grant

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan):** My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has made the following ministerial statement:

In December 2008 the then Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Ashfield (Geoff Hoon), announced a range of reforms to bus service operators grant (BSOG) to bring this subsidy better into line with Government objectives. As promised in that announcement, we have since been developing the detailed arrangements with stakeholders, and continuing to discuss possible longer-term reforms.

In April this year the Government introduced two changes to the current BSOG scheme. First, bus operators who have achieved a 6 per cent. improvement in fuel efficiency will receive a 3 per cent. uplift in their BSOG rate from April 2010. Secondly, with effect from April 2009 operators have been able to claim an additional payment of 6 pence for each kilometre operated by a low-carbon bus, per example one that is capable of achieving at least a 30 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to a similar size conventional diesel bus.

I can now confirm the details of two further changes that were first announced in last December's statement and will come into effect in April 2010. From that date operators will receive an 8 per cent. increase in their BSOG rate if they have operational ITSO smartcard systems and, separately, a 2 per cent. increase if they have fitted their buses with GPS equipment. To qualify for the higher rate smartcard equipment will need to accept all English concessionary passes and the incentive will also be linked to accepting integrated ticketing products. To receive either the smartcard or GPS incentive, operators will also have to commit to share specific data with local authorities, central government and other relevant bodies. Together these incentives could be worth around £1,000 in additional grant per bus each year.

The smartcard and GPS incentives will not apply to London operators. The contractual arrangements for bus services in London already provide the mechanism for securing the outputs that the Government are seeking, such as installation of GPS equipment and availability of GPS data. There is a separate project to enable the Transport for London Oyster network to read ITSO smart cards, to which the Department for Transport has committed £60 million.

The smartcard incentive is part of a package of measures designed to encourage the introduction of smart and integrated ticketing across the country. These are the subject of a separate announcement today. Encouraging the take up and use of GPS systems will help realise the potential for passengers to receive real-time information about bus services and bus performance.

I can also announce today our intentions for a more fundamental reform of BSOG which we aim to introduce in the next two to three years.

As last December's statement made clear, we want our buses to be as green and clean as possible. That is why we are reforming BSOG to ensure it contributes to the Government's strategic objectives, particularly in relation to tackling climate change. Drawing on the results of our consultation in 2008 on options for longer term reform, and from discussions with stakeholders, the Government wish to move away from paying support on the basis of how much fuel is consumed. We will therefore bring forward new arrangements for support on the basis of passenger numbers. This will act to make public transport more attractive thereby delivering environmental benefits through reduced congestion and improved air quality.

These new arrangements will mean that operators will face the full cost of the fuel they use. This will strengthen the commercial incentives for operators to find ways to reduce their fuel consumption and improve the business case for investment in driver training and low-carbon buses. It also builds on the fuel efficiency target and the distance-based payment for use of low-carbon buses that are now part of the current BSOG system.

The new incentive per passenger arrangements, which build on the work done by the Commission for Integrated Transport, will rely on accurate recording of passenger numbers. This will require audited data of the sort that can be provided through the use of smart ticketing equipment. The move to per passenger payments will therefore be underpinned by the delivery of the Government's smart and integrated ticketing strategy, which has been announced today, and which is itself supported by the new smart ticketing incentive described above. We recognise that it could take up to 10 years for the national bus fleet to be equipped, and we therefore propose a managed transition from BSOG to the new system.

Introduction of this new form of bus subsidy will also require the approval of the European Commission for reasons of state aid. Given the fundamental nature of the changes that we are proposing, approval is likely to take two to three years. Until the new system has been approved the existing BSOG scheme will continue. Once approval has been given, the per passenger system will be rolled out as quickly as operators can install ITSO smart ticketing systems. The existing fuel-based system will continue in parallel for those operators without smartcard equipment, although the rate of payment may decline over time. Eventually, by around 2020, the BSOG system will end and be replaced entirely by an incentive per passenger.

We will discuss the detailed implementation of these proposals with members of the Bus Subsidy Advisory Group and with other Government Departments. In particular, we recognise that an incentive per passenger will have different impacts in areas of high and low demand. While the bulk of resources available for bus support will therefore move to an incentive per passenger basis, we will wish to discuss with stakeholders how best to make appropriate arrangements for supporting socially necessary services that become less commercially viable as a result of introducing a per passenger system. This might mean, for example, some of the current BSOG budget being transferred to local authorities.

It remains our intention as part of these reforms to stop providing BSOG direct to London operators, as announced last December. We will seek to agree detailed arrangements with TfL at the appropriate time.

The changes I have announced today set the long term direction of changes to bus subsidy and introduce important new incentives to the current system. In summary they will:

Provide strong incentives for bus operators further to improve their fuel efficiency, building on the changes introduced in April 2009 which have sent decisive signals to the industry about the need to improve their environmental performance;

Give operators real incentives to attract more passengers to their services and out of their cars;

Underpin the ticketing strategy also announced today and pave the way for widespread smart ticketing;

Support the take up and use of GPS systems that will increase availability to passengers of real-time information about services and bus performance.

### EU Transport Council

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan):** I will attend the second Transport Council of the Swedish presidency which will take place in Brussels on 17 December.

The Council will be asked to reach a political agreement on a regulation on the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport, which also amends Regulation 2006/2004 on co-operation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws. While the scope of the regulation remains unresolved prior to the Transport Council, other key UK concerns with the original proposal have been addressed and the Government hope that a satisfactory political agreement can be reached.

The Council will be asked to reach a general approach on an amending regulation on structures for the management of the European satellite radio-navigation programmes. The Commission will also give a progress report on the Galileo programme. Regulation 683/2008 significantly changed the role of the Galileo Supervisory Authority (GSA). The amending regulation amends earlier legislation on the GSA to bring it all in line with the 2008 regulation. It changes the name of the body concerned to the European GNSS Agency and gives the European Commission more power in the administrative board. The UK is content that this is a sensible compromise. The UK has been a strong supporter of the need for a security accreditation body which can operate independently. We were also keen that, should the Accreditors take a decision which would significantly increase cost or introduce delay, the Commission cannot overrule them without going to the Council and the Parliament. It would be for Council to decide whether the risk of not doing what the Accreditors wanted was manageable. The Commission and member states have agreed with us that this is a sensible way forward.

There will be a progress report on a directive on the deployment of intelligent transport systems (ITS). My officials have been negotiating to secure amendments to the draft directive which better align it with UK interests. Good progress has been made on those areas of concern to the UK.

There will also be a progress report on a proposed directive on aviation security charges. The UK will work towards achieving a fair and proportionate outcome that balances the interests of passengers and airports.

The Council will be asked to reach a general approach on a directive on reporting formalities for ships arriving in and/or departing from EU ports. The UK supports this measure in principle as it should lead to a streamlining of administrative procedures to be followed by ships. It will be important to ensure that the implementation timetable allows member states sufficient time to adapt existing national systems to the new requirements.

The Council will be asked to adopt conclusions following on from the Commission's Communication "A sustainable future for transport: Towards an integrated, technology-led and user friendly system", which was debated by the Council in October. The UK believes the Council conclusions to be a good outcome. They provide the Commission with a clear and useful steer and I expect to be able to sign up to the conclusions at the Council.

The Council will be asked to adopt a decision, authorising the Commission to negotiate an agreement with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), providing a general framework for enhanced co-operation. The UK supports this proposal. There are significant gains to be had from closer co-operation between the Community and ICAO, notably in the field of aviation safety. The presidency has made clear that the draft mandate does not affect relations between individual member states and ICAO, nor does it affect the arrangements for preparing Community positions for meetings of the ICAO Council.

There will be a progress report from the Commission on the second stage of air services negotiations with the US. Ministers' views will be sought on the next phase of the negotiations.

## Smart and Integrated Ticketing Strategy

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan):** My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has made the following ministerial statement:

> I am today announcing the launch of the Government's smart and integrated ticketing strategy.
>
> The strategy follows a consultation which ran for 10 weeks from August this year and sought views on the Government's emerging vision for smart and integrated ticketing across public transport in England. The consultation was well received, with over 120 responses, and there was strong support for the emerging vision although also a strong message that Government needed to set out a clear roadmap for delivery.
>
> Our research suggests that smart and integrated ticketing could bring overall benefits of over £1 billion per year and could significantly improve the offer to the passenger through reduced queuing times, removal of the need to carry cash and the provision of seamless journeys.
>
> We have incorporated 27 specific Government commitments in the strategy. Key commitments include £20 million of funding to be awarded to nine of the largest urban areas in England (outside London) in order to bring smart ticketing to the greatest number of people most quickly; a change to bus operators' grant (BSOG) which is the subject of a separate announcement today and which will reward operators who equip their buses with smart ticketing infrastructure with an 8 per cent. increase in grant; consideration of possible legislation if insufficient progress has been made in the roll-out of integrated ticketing; and the creation of a dedicated smart and integrated ticketing team within the Department of Transport to co-ordinate delivery of the strategy from a central point.
>
> The strategy includes a timetable for delivery, which though challenging, I believe is achievable. Our immediate goal is to see integrated multi-modal smart ticketing schemes, similar to the Oyster scheme in London but using the ITSO specification, in England's major urban areas by 2015. We expect that urban schemes will provide a base from which further expansion can occur, and anticipate that that there will be some local integrated ITSO smart ticketing schemes in every area of the country by 2020. The Department will also continue to put smart ticketing requirements into the rail franchises as they come up for renewal.
>
> Longer term, our aim is to see customers possibly being given a choice of ticketing media, potentially including bank cards and mobile phones and improved links between ticketing and information provision to make public transport use an easier and more attractive option to passengers.
>
> The successful delivery of the strategy will depend upon partnership working to ensure that schemes meet the needs of the passengers. In the strategy, the Department lays out the roles envisaged for principal stakeholders: ITSO, the local transport authorities, local transport operators, train operating companies and suppliers. We recognise that we cannot deliver the strategy without the support of all these key stakeholders and I look forward to working with them to ensure that we meet our commitments as soon as possible.
>
> Copies of the strategy document have been placed in the Library of the House.

## UK Roads Liaison Group Report (Severe Weather February 2009)

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan):** In February Britain experienced its worst winter for 18 years. It is important that we learn the transport lessons from that experience, so that the country is better prepared for similar severe events in future. To this end, the then Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon), commissioned the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) to conduct a review of the difficulties experienced in the operation of winter maintenance service at that time.

The UKRLG published its report on 4 August (available from the Libraries of both Houses or from: www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org), and I am grateful for the thorough way in which it reviews events. The report makes 19 recommendations, and I am pleased to announce today that the Government have accepted them all, which together should improve our preparedness to face up to the challenges presented by severe winter weather in the future.

Most of the recommendations are addressed to local highway authorities and salt suppliers. It is, of course, for each authority to consider these and decide for themselves how best to take them forward. I commend them to authorities' attention.

The report addresses four recommendations specifically to the Department for Transport and the Highways Agency.

First, it recommends that the Highways Agency should hold a reserve of salt above that which it needs to meet its service standards, in order to reduce overall demand for salt at critical times. In addition to supporting the UKRLG review, the agency has carried out its own internal exercise to identify those areas of its business which may be improved, to further strengthen its winter service resilience. A number of improvements have been identified and implemented, including a review of the salt stock levels that will be held across the strategic road network in England. The agency has previously implemented a risk-based approach to set its salt stock levels each year. By identifying and considering the impact of issues which may affect salt supplies and associated stock levels, a suitable salt stock profile for each of the agency's operational areas is derived for the winter season ahead. The increased risk of a salt shortage similar to that experienced last season has been considered when setting the salt stock profiles for this winter season, in order to increase the agency's salt stock resilience.

UKRLG further recommend that the Department should publish an information leaflet for highway authority elected members and senior managers on preparation for severe winter conditions. We have produced such a leaflet and have arranged for this to be distributed today.

The report proposes that the Department should make preparations to enable rapid introduction of derogation against drivers' hours regulations for specific categories of vehicles and drivers if necessary in times of severe adverse weather conditions. We agree with the recommendation that it is important to implement such derogations quickly, when the need has been identified. We believe that the Department's response in February was as swift as was possible; but we will review our processes to ensure that we remain ready to deal with applications for derogation as quickly as possible.

UKRLG considered the operation of the centrally co-ordinated Salt Cell that was set up in February. The report concludes that the possibility of a future Government-run Salt Cell should only be considered as a matter of last resort, but that the Government should develop a contingency plan for any future Salt Cell, to be used in extremis. I again accept the recommendation. My Department is working with a number of stakeholders, both within and without Government, to develop robust protocols against such an eventuality.

Co-operation and co-ordination between highways authorities and suppliers will be a key component in better management of winter service in the future, however severe the weather. The Highways Agency had already identified the need to develop a closer relationship with its salt supply chain partners. A strategic Salt Liaison Group (SLG) has been established, to discuss issues affecting salt usage and supply for the strategic network. Local highway authorities may wish to reflect on how similar arrangements might benefit them. As part of its own review of lessons learnt, the agency also highlighted the need for improved communications to give earlier warning of any developing salt supply issues. Again, local authorities may wish to consider how they can implement a more precautionary, focused dialogue with salt suppliers in the same way.

There is already good communication between the Highways Agency and local authorities, and the agency shares a number of depots with local authorities. As well as the cost efficiencies associated with depot-sharing, it can provide access to the network at operationally important locations that may not otherwise be available. The Highways Agency recognises the importance of depot-sharing in providing a cost-effective solution to planning and maintaining an effective winter service. However, depots are often not suitable for sharing either on account of their location, their size or other operational constraints. Each proposal therefore needs to be considered on its individual merits, to ensure that service delivery for both authorities will not be compromised.

While no system can be completely resilient in extreme circumstances, adopting the UKRLG's recommendations should help the nation to be better prepared should weather conditions similar to this past winters be encountered in future.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Autumn Performance Report

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper):** I will shortly be publishing the Autumn Performance Report of the Department for Work and Pensions. The report is intended to supplement the Department's annual report published in June 2009.

The report is the Department's third report under CSR2007 on its cross-governmental public service agreements, its departmental strategic objectives and its value for money delivery agreement.

This publication has been specifically designed to be accessed online, on the grounds of sustainability and potential financial savings, and will be available on the Department's website. For the convenience of Members, some printed copies will be placed in the Library and supplied to the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 16 December 2009*

## TREASURY

### ECOFIN

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling):** The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 2 December 2009. The following items were discussed:

*Regulations establishing three European supervisory authorities*

Ministers agreed general approaches on draft regulations establishing three European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs): the European Banking Authority, the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority and the European Securities and Markets Authority.

The UK secured significant additional safeguards for both crisis and mediation decision-making by the ESAs, including language in line with the June European Council conclusions that decisions taken would not impinge in any way on the fiscal responsibilities of member states.

Ministers agreed that ECOFIN would retain the power to call a crisis and therefore activate any ESA powers. Ministers will vote by simple majority on safeguard clauses applying to crisis powers of a member state seeking an opt-out as well as any ESA decisions on mediation. Member states seeking an opt-out would have the option to refer the matter to the European Council.

The Government welcome the outcome, which complements existing national regulation and should tighten up the European regulatory system. The presidency will now start negotiations with the European Parliament with a view to enabling adoption of the texts at first reading.

*Taxation*

> a) VAT: Draft Directive on reverse charge on emission allowances and certain goods.
>
> The Council agreed a general approach on the draft directive that would allow member states to implement, on an optional and temporary basis, a reversal of liability for the payment of VAT on greenhouse gas emission allowances. The Council will continue to work on other elements of the proposal as regards the application of the reverse charge mechanism to mobile phones and electronic circuit devices, with a view to reaching an agreement as soon as possible.
>
> b) VAT treatment of postal services
>
> ECOFIN agreed to discuss the VAT treatment of postal services further before the implementation of the third postal directive enters into force on 1 January 2011 (1 January 2013 in some member states). The forthcoming Spanish and Belgian presidencies were invited to explore all options and report back to Council by December 2010 at the latest.

*Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact*

ECOFIN agreed Council recommendations calling on Belgium and Italy to reduce their deficits below the 3 per cent. of GDP threshold by 2012, the Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia to do so by 2013, Ireland by 2014 and the UK by the 2014-15 financial year. It also adopted a decision acknowledging that Greece's response to its April 2009 recommendation has been insufficient. These recommendations are in line with recent agreements at ECOFIN and the European Council on the EU's framework for fiscal exit strategies.

*Preparations for the 10-11 December European Council*

> a) Financial supervision
>
> The Council took stock of progress made on the legislative proposals aimed at reforming the EU framework for the supervision of financial services following the global financial crisis. The Swedish presidency will report on progress to the December European Council, taking into account the results of the Council deliberations on both the micro and macro-supervisory elements of the package, enabling Heads to sign off the complete package as planned.
>
> b) Contribution from ECOFIN to the discussion on the post-2010 Lisbon agenda
>
> Ministers agreed a set of conclusions on the direction of a successor to the Lisbon strategy. The Government support the conclusions, which help build momentum towards the December European Council, where EU Heads will discuss a set of principles for a new European strategy for jobs and growth.
>
> c) Exit strategies
>
> Ministers agreed conclusions on exit strategies from support to the financial sector. The UK is content with the conclusions, which recognise the importance of starting to design the strategy for the phasing out of support schemes, but emphasised that implementation should wait until markets have fully recovered. ECOFIN will return to this issue in February 2010.

*Financial stability and crisis management*

ECOFIN agreed conclusions on financial stability, focusing on improvements in cross-border crisis management in the banking sector. The conclusions recognised the value of co-ordination among member states and with external partners, and endorsed the principles of firm-specific recovery and resolution plans.

### Equitable Life

**The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Liam Byrne):** I can today provide an update to the House on the progress of Sir John Chadwick's work in advising the Government on the establishment of an exgratia payment scheme for Equitable Life policyholders.

Sir John published his first interim report on 18 August 2009. He has since received a range of representations on the questions he has raised, and is today publishing a second interim report, which sets out:

> The scope of the work that will be required following his revised terms of reference, which were issued on 27 November.
>
> The case for adopting a "flexible" approach to calculating policyholders' relative loss. Sir John considers that this approach is fairer, easier to calculate, and quicker to deliver than other potential approaches.
>
> The list of questions that he will need to address in his final advice.

Sir John would welcome further representations and comments from all parties on the issues raised in his latest report by 29 January 2010.

The Government are committed to establishing a fair payment scheme as quickly as possible. We expect Sir John to submit his final report in spring 2010, and will announce details of a payment scheme to follow, also in spring 2010.

I will update the House further in due course.

### Investment Banks

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry):** Today the Government are publishing a consultation document on investment bank resolution. Copies of the document entitled, "Establishing resolution arrangements for investment banks" have been deposited in the Libraries of the House and will be available on the HM Treasury website at: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

### House of Lords Select Committee on the Barnett Formula (Government Response)

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling):** The Government are today publishing their response to the House of Lords Select Committee report on the Barnett formula (CM 7772). This paper and the evidence referred to in it also meet the Government's commitment to produce a factual paper on the Barnett formula.

### The Remittance Basis

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms):** I am announcing today the Government's intention to present to Parliament proposed changes to the capital gains tax rules which will be legislated as part of Finance Bill 2010. These changes prevent the creation of capital gains tax losses which arise in certain circumstances from transactions of foreign currency bank accounts and will be effective from 16 December 2009. HM Revenue and Customs will publish on their website at: www.hmrc.gov.uk, precise details of the changes as soon as possible.

The changes affect individuals who are liable to tax on their foreign income and gains on the remittance basis. These individuals are liable to income tax on the sterling value of the amount remitted at the time of remittance. If the remittance takes the form of a transfer from a bank account in a foreign currency, they will simultaneously dispose of a corresponding part of that account and a capital gain or loss might arise as a consequence.

Associated with this change, I can confirm that HM Revenue and Customs accept that an existing capital gains tax rule in section 37 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 removes any element of double tax charge in this situation. The income remitted is fully taxable (subject to any exemption which might apply), but a double charge to tax is avoided by this rule which excludes the income amount from the disposal proceeds used to calculate the capital gain or loss.

It is now clear that the rule goes beyond preventing a charge to capital gains tax and does not produce a fair outcome. Where the remittance is all treated as income, the rule creates capital gains tax losses that are far in excess of any real loss which the individual incurs. Where the remittance is partly income, the rule either creates an excessively large loss or reduces the taxable gain below the real level of gain.

The proposed legislative change will correct this defect in the current rules. Where a remittance comprises wholly income, the change will eliminate the loss arising under the current rule. Where a remittance comprises only partly income, the loss attributable to the income element of the remittance will again be eliminated. In addition, the allowable cost attributable to the non-income element of the remittance will be adjusted to ensure it corresponds to the amount of that part of the remittance. Where necessary, the allowable cost of the bank account will also be adjusted to ensure it corresponds to the amount remaining in the bank account after the remittance.

The result of these changes will be that a double tax charge will be avoided and no relief will be given where no actual loss has been incurred.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Government and Third Sector in England (Compact)

**The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith):** I am pleased to announce that the refreshed Compact, which outlines how the Government will work together with the third sector, has been launched today. The new Compact is clearer, shorter and easier to use and is a clear symbol of the Government's continued commitment to working with the third sector. It will be a valuable tool in helping to build partnerships in the years to come.

Copies of the Compact have been placed in the Library and on the Cabinet Office website: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector.aspx

### EU Education and Youth Council

**The Minister for Schools and Learners (Mr. Vernon Coaker):** Jane Hutt, Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills in the Welsh Assembly Government, represented the UK at the Education and Youth Councils, on behalf of DCSF and BIS.

*Education*

Ministers adopted conclusions on the professional development of teachers and school leaders; the role of education in a fully-functioning knowledge triangle; and the education of children with a migrant background. All three sets of conclusions are consistent with UK domestic policy, and we were able to support them.

The latter conclusions also formed the theme of a policy debate between delegations. While clear that there was a wide variation in the levels of migration in each member state, all were in close agreement on the approach set out in the conclusions.

There was a second policy debate on quality assurance in higher education. This was based on a Commission discussion paper which argued for early improvements in higher education quality assurance and further development of transparency tools. The UK supported the approach set out in the Leuven Communiqué of April 2009, stressing the need to embed current improvements before going further and that the issue should be reviewed at the Bologna HE summit in 2012.

This was supported by the majority of member states, who wanted a measured approach, working through the Bologna process.

Under any other business, the Commission presented the draft joint interim report on the education and training 2010 work programme, and the Spanish presidency briefly noted their upcoming presidency schedule.

The Council included a lunch debate on the role of education in the post-2010 Lisbon strategy. This discussion was informed by presidency questions, but also the recently released Barroso EU2020 paper.

*Youth*

Youth Council adopted a Council resolution on a renewed framework for European co-operation in the youth field (2010-2018). A policy debate followed on the short-term implementation and future aspirations for the framework. All member states supported the strategy, with the majority citing youth unemployment and disadvantaged youth as key issues. The UK pressed for member states commitment to the open method of co-ordination process at all levels, noting the need to avoid burdensome reporting structures.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Lamb Inquiry

**The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls):** Today I welcome the publication of the final report of the Lamb inquiry on parental confidence in the special educational needs (SEN) system.

The Lamb inquiry was established as part of the Government's response to the House of Commons Education and Skills Committee report "Special Educational Needs: Assessment and Funding". The inquiry, under the chairmanship of Brian Lamb, the chair of the Special Educational Consortium, was tasked with investigating a range of ways in which parental confidence in the SEN assessment process might be improved. We specifically asked that the inquiry:

commission and evaluate innovative projects;

draw on the evidence of other work currently commissioned by the Department; and

take into account the evidence of the submissions to the two Select Committee reports in 2006 and 2007.

The inquiry began in March 2008, and has made a range of recommendations, which we have accepted and acted upon. In December 2008, in response to early findings calling for a greater focus on outcomes achieved by children with SEN and disabilities (SEND), we announced a £38 million package of measures aimed at addressing this. At the heart of that was Achievement for All pilots, which are now taking place in 10 areas, involving 460 schools to demonstrate how to: raise achievement for children with SEND; better engage their parents; and address issues such as bullying and participation in school life[1]. In April, I committed to ensuring that our 21st Century Schools White Paper mainstreamed the needs of parents of children with SEND. Since the inquiry's two reports in August, the Children, Schools and Families Bill has been introduced to Parliament. It proposes a new duty on Ofsted to report on the progress of children with SEND in school inspections, now and in future, and gives parents who have had their child's statement reviewed but not amended, an additional right to appeal.

The Government welcome the inquiry's final report. The inquiry has found that, whilst the SEN framework functions well for the majority of parents, within the same legislative framework there are parents who have been poorly served and have had to battle to get the needs of their child identified and met. This varied picture must be redrawn so that it is common practice to have access to skilled professionals who understand the needs of children and who have high expectations of what children can achieve.

I have written to Brian Lamb today to thank him for the inquiry and to outline the Government's immediate response, which focuses on the concerns of parents who have least confidence in the present system:

Work will begin immediately on establishing a national special educational needs helpline which will provide independent, expert advice and information to parents directly over the phone and through dedicated online support.

The Government will move quickly to strengthen parent partnership services by ensuring all advisors are trained in SEN and disability law. We will work with the national parent partnership network, based at the Council for Disabled Children, to deliver this training in 2010.

We will work with professional bodies to make clear that the advice professionals provide to local authorities should not be fettered because of concerns about capacity to deliver.

Start-up funding will be provided to the local government ombudsman, to take on parental complaints on SEN about local authorities from January 2010.

Statutory guidance to governing bodies and independent appeals panels on exclusions will be strengthened to require a review of whether the head teacher had regard to the guidance on special educational needs and disability.

Tomorrow, we are inviting local authorities and voluntary sector organisations to bid for a further round of innovative projects to improve parental confidence. These will include more transparency in LA decision-making and greater independence of assessment, using different service models for providing educational psychology advice.

The inquiry makes a number of recommendations about strengthening the operation of the first-tier tribunal (SEN and Disability). We agree that guidelines should be issued on the provision of professional and expert evidence by March 2010. It is important that we improve access to justice and so we will work with the Ministry of Justice and key stakeholders to review the exceptional funding scheme for providing legal aid for tribunal hearings and will also aim to re-launch this scheme by March.

We know that bullying is a particular issue for children with SEND and we have published guidance on how to prevent and tackle it. We will be investing further in a project starting early in 2010, led by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and working with key organisations, to identify best practice in tackling SEND-related bullying and how schools can be supported to address it.

In total the inquiry has made 51 recommendations; the implementation plan which we will publish in the new year will set out a full response to each of these recommendations and provide details on how the Government will take them forward. The implementation plan will say how we will be:

*Putting Children's Outcomes at the Heart of the System*

The inquiry is clear that parental confidence is strongest where aspirations for children are high and there is a real focus on progress and outcomes. Our implementation plan will show how we will help schools develop skills and capacity within their workforce and parents will be able to access specialist expertise. The Government's pupil and parent guarantees will also make a commitment to all pupils and their parents, including those with SEND, that their schools will have effective policies in place to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying.

*Ensuring a greater voice for parents in the system*

The importance of good communication is well evidenced by the inquiry: communication between parents and schools and better partnerships between parents and professionals. The implementation plan will explain how the principles of the Aiming High for Disabled Children Core Offer will be further embedded for children with SEN and how we will see improvements in the information that parents can expect to receive from all levels of the system.

*Establishing a local system in tune with children's needs*

The Inquiry has shown that local authorities can and do make a difference to outcomes for children with SEND. The system works best where schools, local authorities and parents operate in a true partnership. We will build on this good practice. Our implementation plan will detail how we will build the system's capacity to provide this level of partnership with all parents. This will include further training for children's services leaders and support for better models of commissioning services. We will also offer guidance and training to those drawing up statements to help build partnership and trust with parents.

*Building accountability around children's progress*

The final report is clear about the importance of accountability in ensuring parental confidence in the system. Our implementation plan will explain how guidance and training for school governors, school improvement partners and appeal panel members will be taken forward. I am committed to ensuring that we bring about an end to systematic failures to fulfil statutory duties and will work with bodies who have information on non-compliance to take firmer action to address failure.

The implementation plan will also detail how the tribunal will review and develop the information that it gathers and publishes and arrangements for the guidance and training for tribunal chairs on telephone and face-to-face hearings.

The inquiry has recommended remedying the exclusion of schools from the duty in the Disability Discrimination Act to provide auxiliary aids and services. We accept this in principle and will look for a suitable legislative opportunity.

I am immensely grateful for all that Brian Lamb and his expert advisers have achieved through the inquiry. I would also wish to thank them for the thorough way in which the inquiry has consulted a wide range of experts and practitioners and for the way in which the voice of parents and children and young people has been brought to the fore. I also note the knowledge that has been developed through the innovative projects and thank the local parents, teachers and officers who have been testing out new ways of ensuring greater parental confidence.

I have asked Brian to monitor progress against the actions we have announced today, and those in the implementation plan we will publish in the new year, and report back to me in April 2010.

The Government share the inquiry's call for much greater ambition for the nation's most vulnerable children and the best possible engagement with their parents. Through our response to the inquiry, and the implementation plan early in 2010, I am committed to ensuring all parents have a shared experience of a system that operates in partnership for the benefit of their children.

I am placing a copy of the report and our response in the Libraries of both Houses.

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[1] Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century schools system (CM 7588), DCSF, June 2009

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Sustainable Homes

**The Minister for Housing (John Healey):** Tackling the huge challenge of climate change is one of this Government's highest priorities. The Government have committed to ambitious emissions reduction plans and have set in legislation a target to reduce UK carbon emissions by 80 per cent. against 1990 levels by 2050. In the UK, nearly half of our carbon emissions come from buildings—27 per cent. of these are from our homes and a further 17 per cent. from other non-domestic buildings. Reducing emissions from our homes is therefore an important part of the UK's transition to a low carbon economy.

*Code for Sustainable Homes*

The Code for sustainable homes aims to improve the overall sustainability of new homes by setting a single national standard for England, Wales and Northern Ireland within which the home building industry can design and construct homes to higher environmental standards, and giving new home buyers better information about the environmental impact of their new home and its potential running costs. It helps people to cut their carbon emissions and to lead a more sustainable lifestyle in general and provides practical experience to support future regulatory steps to help achieve the challenging commitment of requiring all new homes built from 2016 to be zero-carbon.

Since its introduction in 2007, over 300,000 homes have been registered to be built to Code standards, and nearly 2,000 certificates have been issued for completed homes. We now have our first set of Code level six homes.

But while practical experience of working with the Code is informing the development of other aspects of sustainability policy (for example the development of surface water management proposals in the current Floods and Water Management Bill), it has also established some questions over existing standards and the processes for assessment. We also now need to revise the Code to incorporate the new regulatory standards we have and are putting in place, and plan for more stretching energy efficiency standards, including our 2016 zero-carbon standard. To ensure the Code can continue to play a central role in supporting more cost effective sustainable housing development in future, we propose to revise the Code.

I am therefore launching a consultation today on the revisions I propose to the Code for sustainable homes. The consultation is focused on three broad aims for changes:

*Aligning the Code with the latest developments in the zero-carbon homes policy*—to enable it to continue to reflect the future regulatory trajectory and provide practical experience for developers and inform the development of detailed regulatory proposals for 2013 and beyond. This includes consulting on the new energy efficiency standard to be required of zero-carbon homes:

*streamlining the standard and processes* — learning from experience to date, to ensure that the Code is focused on the issues of greatest significance and that we eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy; and

*resolving problems that have arisen in use* — seeking to find practical solutions to barriers that have arisen in the use of the Code so far, balancing sustainability policy aims with the practicalities of house building in the current economic climate.

*Zero-Carbon Homes*

In my written ministerial statement of 16 July 2009, I confirmed our commitment and approach to zero-carbon homes. A zero-carbon home is one with a high standard of energy efficiency, a minimum level of on-site carbon reduction and whose remaining emissions are addressed via a range of further carbon reduction measures known as 'allowable solutions'.

On 24 November 2009, I set out a further written ministerial statement announcing the minimum fabric energy efficiency standard that we would require in zero-carbon homes and that we would consult on this as part of the revision of the Code for sustainable homes. The Code consultation published today therefore seeks views on the fabric energy efficiency standards that should apply to all new homes from 2013 and 2016.

Work continues to put in place the practical arrangements that would be required to permit allowable solutions to be put in place to ensure that standards are achieved in practice and on setting a guideline maximum price we expect industry to bear in implementing allowable solutions. We will seek, in line with the Chancellor's pre-Budget report, practical ways of reducing the costs.

The Government will take full account of the views received in refining the Code and the zero-carbon definition. The consultation will close on 24 March 2010.

I am publishing the following documents for this consultation, which together will help the Government take forward the Sustainable Buildings programme.

"Sustainable New Homes: The Road to Zero Carbon (Consultation on the Code for Sustainable Homes and the Energy Efficiency standard for Zero Carbon Homes)". This is available on our website: www.communities.gov.uk/thecode.

"The Draft Code for Sustainable Homes Technical Guide". This is also available on our website later this week.

"The Code for Sustainable Homes Impact Assessment and the Zero Carbon Homes Impact Assessment (Updated 2009)". These will be available on our website later this week.

I am placing copies of the consultation paper in the Library of the House, and will also do so with the "Draft Code Technical guide and Impact Assessments" later this week.

## Housing

**The Minister for Housing (John Healey):** On my written ministerial statement, 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 7WS, I announced proposals to reform the current system of council house finance and replace it with a devolved system of responsibility and funding.

In my statement, I confirmed that transferring council-owned stock to a registered social landlord remained an option for local authorities. However, I was clear that there should be equity in the terms of public funding whether council homes are transferred or retained in the future under self-financing.

I also said that those local authorities who had existing places on the Housing Stock Transfer programme at 30 June should continue with their transfer proposals. Those local authorities were Plymouth, Rutland, Lambeth (Ashmole), Lewisham (Excalibur) Lambeth (Latmos), Manchester (West Gorton), Merton, Harrow (Mill Farm Estate) Lewisham (Forest Hill), Lewisham (Catford) and Lewisham (Rushey Green). They should ensure that their housing transfer is completed within the requisite two-year period. In my statement, I also undertook to continue to work with councils whose tenants had voted for transfer at that date. Plymouth and Rutland have now transferred their housing stock to a registered social landlord.

At the date of my statement at 30 June, the following local authorities, Warrington, Oldham, Bolton, Stockton, Dacorum and Hull (North Bransholme), had significant contact and developed discussions with the Department or the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) or both. These authorities had also undertaken preliminary consultation with their tenants.

These councils have continued to develop their options including for council stock transfer and by today, December 16, all had submitted a full transfer application. I can confirm that I am instructing the HCA to offer the option of a place on the Housing Stock Transfer programme to these authorities. From this date the transfer process, if it is pursued, should be completed within the required two-year period.

On 21 July, I published a consultation document on the reform of Council Housing Finance which proposed the dismantling of the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system and replacing it with a devolved system of responsibility and funding.

Consultation closed on these proposals on the 27 October. We are carefully considering all the detailed responses received, but there was overwhelming support for the principle of self-financing. Local authorities will retain all their rental income, all their capital receipts, and have a sustainable level of debt based on a significant increase in the scope to spend on housing services and standards. Self-financing will increase local responsibility for long-term planning, asset management, and for meeting the needs of local people. It will enable local authorities to improve the management of their homes and services to tenants, to continue to deliver Decent Homes, and to secure greater efficiencies through being able to plan ahead with greater confidence.

Our work on establishing the structure and detail of a self-financing offer to local authorities with social housing and a housing revenue account is progressing well. In February I expect to be able to confirm the progress we have made and set out in detail the parameters of the changes we plan. This should enable local authorities to make a more informed assessment about what self-financing might mean for future financing, sustainability and housing standards with the continued ownership of their housing stock.

Self-financing will offer an affordable retention option for all local authorities. If it is generally accepted by local government then I would expect that self-financing could be in place for authorities for 2011-12. This would offer a clear alternative to stock transfer within a clear time scale that is comparable to the two-year period allowed for concluding stock transfer.

The six local authorities offered the option of a place on the Housing Stock Transfer programme should fully consider the self-financing proposals and assess all of the options carefully. They should spell out the options available, in clear terms, as part of any consultation with their tenants.

The HCA in approving the offer document for the six authorities for the stage 1 consultation exercise will ensure that the terms of both the full consultation and any subsequent ballot are balanced, neutral and factual, and that the options available to local authorities, and more importantly their tenants, which have been considered, include the potential for self-financing.

The underlying principle is that tenants and others in the local authority area concerned must have accurate and full information on the clear options available in order to be fully consulted and be in a position to make their views known.

In the light of my statement of 30 June, I am now minded to announce a change in policy for all other local authorities who may currently be developing transfer proposals, but do not have a place on the Housing Stock Transfer programme.

I am proposing that those local authorities who had not met the above criteria by today will not be considered for a place on the Housing Stock Transfer programme until we publish the self-financing offer and as a consequence, they should reconsider their transfer proposals in the light of the outline for this new self-financing system.

This will be a very significant opportunity for local authorities to consider. Most importantly, it will be an opportunity for tenants to consider and they should have all the options in front of them when they are asked for their views.

I invite the views of local authorities on the proposed changes to the Housing Stock Transfer programme. I expect to receive representations by 15 January 2010 which I will consider fully. And, I will report to the House further on these matters.

## Park Homes (Transfer of Dispute Resolution)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Ian Austin):** Further to the statement by the Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 30 May 2009, in which he announced the Government's intention to transfer most of the functions of county courts to residential property tribunals under the Mobile Homes Act 1983 (as amended), I am today announcing that, subject to parliamentary consent, the residential property tribunal's new jurisdiction will come into force on 6 April 2010.

The aim of the transfer of the jurisdiction is to provide residents of mobile homes (including caravans) and the owners of sites on which they are located, with a level playing field in the resolution of disputes, by providing access to a dedicated, low-cost specialist (housing) tribunal, which can deal with cases quickly and without the parties needing to be legally represented.

I have also today published a paper setting out the Government's response to the May 2009 consultation "Further consultation on termination provisions in the Mobile Homes Act 1983 (as amended)". The response paper sets out the reasons for the Government's decisions not to transfer the "fact finding" role of county courts to residential property tribunals in respect of termination cases involving a breach of an agreement, or a claim that the resident of the park home is no longer occupying it as his only or main residence, but to do so in respect of claims relating to the detrimental condition of the home to the amenity of the site. A copy of the response paper has been placed in the Library of the House and is available on the Communities and Local Government website at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/terminationprovisionsresponse

## Sustainable Communities Act 2007

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham):** On 28 October I committed to reporting on the future development of Local Spending Reports. That report is being published today on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localpublicexpenditure. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Our aim is to deliver better public services which also offer increased value for money. In order to do that, we need to ensure that information about how public money is spent is clear, accessible and useful. This will make it easier for service providers, potential providers, and citizens themselves to look at how that money is being spent, identify evidence of duplication or waste, develop alternative solutions and hold service providers to account. More fundamentally, ensuring that citizens have the information they need about public organisations is essential to empower communities, make sure their voice is heard, and that they have control over the services they receive.

Local Spending Reports are an important part of the way in which we will increase the transparency, visibility and accountability of local public spending. They help ensure that local authorities, their partners, and citizens have easy access to the information they need about public spending in their area, all in one place. The first Local Spending Report was published in April 2009, when we committed to developing these reports further.

The report we are publishing today sets out how we plan to make Local Spending Reports more useful and informative, by increasing the range of information they cover; and more practical and accessible, by ensuring that Local Spending Reports can be viewed by anyone on the web in a broader context of quality, performance, efficiency and value for money. They will form part of the Local Data Exchange which Communities and Local Government is developing as a way for local authorities to better share information among each other and with their partners and citizens. It also sets out how we will ensure that Local Spending Reports offer value for money and are not overly costly or burdensome for local authorities and their partners.

Local Spending Reports are just one element of our ambitions to make sure that citizens are better informed about the services in their area and how they are performing. Since the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 became law, there have been other important developments which will complement and strengthen how they work—

first, the Government's wider work to make public data available to common standards on the internet, led by Tim Berners-Lee and Nigel Shadbolt; secondly, our proposals to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to scrutinise local public spending; and thirdly, the development of Total Place, where local authorities bring together all the partners responsible for public spending in an area, challenging how that money is being spent. Most recently, "Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government" set out a plan to drive up standards by strengthening the role of citizens and civic society, to free up public services by recasting the relationship between the centre and the frontline, and to streamline the centre of Government, saving money for sharper delivery. Local Spending Reports are one step towards these broader goals.

The next Local Spending Report will contain more up-to-date data, across a wider range of sources. In the new year, I will publish a consultation paper to discuss the issues with organisations who will be affected by the arrangements. We also want to make sure that the next Local Spending Report easily links across to the sources of the original data wherever possible, so that those interested in the detail of the report can quickly find out more. This will make Local Spending Reports more "alive": easier to use and more valuable to the user. My intention is to publish the next Local Spending Report (after the consultation) in the summer 2010.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Private Military and Security Companies (Standards of Conduct)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** On 24 April 2009, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) launched a 12-week public consultation on the Government's proposed policy to promote high standards of conduct in the Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs) industry internationally.

Our overarching aims are to (a) promote high standards of conduct by PMSCs internationally; and (b) reduce the risk that PMSC activities might give rise to human rights or international humanitarian law concerns, assist internal repression, or provoke or prolong internal or regional tensions.

Our preferred option involves promot[illegible]igh standards of behaviour by the industry in the [illegible]gh a code of conduct, agreed with and monitored [illegible]rnment, using our leverage as a key buyer to raise standards, together with an international agreement on standards covering all aspects of PMSC operation and organisation worldwide.

We received 25 responses to the consultation. The FCO is today publishing on its website a summary of responses to the consultation, including a Government response to the contributions. We will be able to integrate many of the suggestions into our follow-up work.

The following key findings emerged: (a) there was no conclusive evidence to demonstrate that the Government's preferred option of promoting high standards of conduct internationally was not the best way of meeting achieving our aims and (b) the appropriateness and capacity of a trade association to combine the compliance auditing and monitoring of a code of conduct with trade promotion activities would require careful consideration.

The Government remain convinced that their preferred approach is the most viable option, but accept that further work remains to be done in certain respects. Specifically, we will now take forward work in consultation with the industry, non-governmental organisations and others to determine detailed arrangements for the effective monitoring/auditing of compliance with a code of conduct. We will aim to publish our thinking on the way ahead, taking into account this work and the key findings of the consultation, by March 2010.

In parallel, my officials will continue to work with partners for an effective international standard supported by an accountability mechanism. We aim to agree these within the next two years.

## HEALTH

### NHS Operating Framework

**The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham):** The NHS Operating Framework for 2010-11 was published today. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

The NHS Operating Framework for 2010-11 describes a stable financial settlement to operate within and makes clear what the NHS needs to do to deliver the priorities agreed as part of the comprehensive spending review 2007, and be in the best possible position to move into the new Spending Review period beyond 2011.

The priorities for the NHS in 2010-11 continue to be:

improving standards of cleanliness and tackling healthcare associated infections;

improving access to care through the achievement of the 18-week referral to treatment pledge and improving access to GP services, including at evenings and at weekends;

improving the health of adults and children and reducing health inequalities, by focusing on improving care for cancer and stroke, and paying particular attention to children's health, and maternity and neonatal services;

improving patient and staff experience, satisfaction and engagement;

and preparing to respond in a state of emergency, such as an outbreak of pandemic influenza.

In addition to the national priorities, primary care trusts (PCTs) need to continue to improve at understanding the particular needs of their local populations and take concrete steps to address them. In order to meet their own local needs, PCTs will need to work in step with local government through local area agreements that focus on improving health and well-being.

Local priorities will build on evidence about current PCT performance and regional variation, and also plan for the future by incorporating work being done in local service reviews.

By the end of 2010-11 we expect to see NHS organisations that have adapted to reflect the quality and productivity challenge while maintaining improved delivery and financial discipline.

The NHS must meet the needs of its patients and their families, the expectations of the public and the aspirations of its staff. At all times, the NHS must be safe, effective, personalised and fair. The more responsive and personalised the NHS gets, the better the care it will provide and the more confidence the health service will inspire.

The NHS Operating Framework for 2010-11 should be read in conjunction with the NHS 2010-15 document.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Civilian Stabilisation Capacity

**The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander):** I am pleased to announce that the stabilisation unit has now recruited over 1,000 high quality individuals with the right skills and experience to deploy and help rebuild countries emerging from conflict. They come from both the public and private sectors, including 200 civil servants. This delivers the commitment made by the Prime Minister last year in his launch of the national security strategy.

The stabilisation unit currently deploys 70 civilians and 35 police officers either in hostile environments such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan and DRC, or on secondment to international peace-building missions such as Kosovo and Georgia. These trained and experienced individuals are making a valuable contribution to improving security, governance and promoting peace in countries affected by violent conflict. This has been most evident in Helmand province in Afghanistan where the unit's ability to find high quality personnel willing to work in the forward operating bases has been a major factor in the success of the UK-led provincial reconstruction team in expanding the reach of the Government of Afghanistan to the majority of the population.

The creation of the 1,000 strong civilian stabilisation capacity will enable the unit to increase the number of civilians deployed at any one time up to 200 if required. The unit is also working with UK police forces in increasing the number of serving senior ranking police officers who are able to deploy.

This enhancement of the stabilisation unit's capability is one of a number of ways in which DFID, FCO and MOD are strengthening the unit. It is also increasing its ability to support cross-Government planning and identify and disseminate lessons relating to conflict.

### Ethiopia

**The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas):** Ethiopia remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Recently, it has faced additional challenges, including a chronic humanitarian situation and the impact of the global economic downturn.

Despite these additional challenges, the Government of Ethiopia continue to make impressive progress in expanding the availability and quality of health, education, water, sanitation and agriculture services across Ethiopia, with support from international donors. Progress in these areas is building the foundations for faster growth and greater food security. The UK helps support this progress through the protection of basic services (PBS) programme, alongside complementary activities.

PBS has a proven track record of providing essential services for millions of very poor Ethiopians. In the next two to three years, our latest £60 million contribution will help:

provide an extra 150,000 trained teachers

get 2.8 million more children in school

train 6,000 new health workers

equip 1,200 health centres with emergency obstetric care

vaccinate 4 million babies against killer diseases

make sure that 400,000 more children survive to the age of five; and

provide access to water for 6 million more households.

We are aware of allegations that some aid provided through the Ethiopian authorities—including through PBS—is being distorted at the local level for political purposes. We take all allegations of this nature very seriously. PBS was deliberately designed to include a range of rigorous checks, including regular financial and impact audits, surveys of the intended beneficiaries to check our support is reaching them, field visits, and evaluations to monitor progress.

In addition to these in-built safeguards in PBS, we have raised our concerns with Prime Minister Meles and are taking additional steps to make sure that our aid is being used for its intended purpose. These steps include jointly commissioning work to look for any evidence of systemic or widespread distortion within PBS and the other programmes concerned.

## JUSTICE

### Succession and Wills (Commission Proposal)

**The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw):** The Government have today decided not to opt in to the European Commission's proposed regulation on succession and wills. This means the UK will not be bound by this regulation.

Hundreds of thousands of UK citizens live and work in other EU member states, and millions of others enjoy holidays in the EU. The diversity of rules and systems that apply to succession in different member states can make for considerable complications where a person owns property across borders. In principle therefore, efforts to simplify and clarify the rules that apply to international successions could produce huge benefits for UK citizens, and the Government are strongly supportive of the project in principle. However, there are potentially significant problems identified with the proposal that the EU Commission has published. These were set out in a public consultation document, copies of which are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

That consultation document highlighted two key problems. The first, and most difficult of those, was "clawback", which describes a legal mechanism where gifts made during a person's lifetime can be recouped after their death. The introduction of this concept into the UK could create major practical difficulties, particularly for the recipients of such gifts including charities.

The second key concern was the proposal's reliance on "habitual residence" as the sole connecting factor, that is, the factor of a person's circumstances which determines when the regulation's other rules apply. Using "habitual residence" in isolation in this way could mean that the relatives of anyone who lived abroad for a relatively short period of time and then died there, would find their estate was subject to a law with which they had no real connection. That could lead to unforeseen and unfair outcomes.

The Ministry of Justice's recent public consultation confirmed that these issues are widely considered to be of very significant concern. A report of that consultation will be published in due course.

The Government have concluded that the potential benefits of this proposal are outweighed by the risks and have therefore decided that the best course of action is not to opt in to the proposal and the UK will therefore not be bound by the outcome.

The Government intend, however, to engage fully with the forthcoming negotiations between member states on this proposal, with the aim of removing the points that currently cause concern and to deliver further improvements for citizens with links and assets in more than one country. If that can be achieved, the Government could then decide to seek to adopt the final regulation. That will be considered and consulted upon as appropriate at that time.

## Legal Aid

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice):** My noble friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Lord Bach, has made the following written ministerial statement.

Following a consultation process, the Government intend to introduce a number of reforms that aim to rebalance the legal aid budget to ensure that the £2.1 billion currently spent every year goes as far as possible in favour of civil help for those who need it most.

The reforms are outlined in the Government's response to the consultation paper "Legal Aid: Funding Reforms", which the Ministry of Justice will be publishing later today. The reforms are intended to make better use of the criminal legal aid budget and include changes that rationalise payment structures.

The reforms will:

Contain the cost of legal aid representation at police stations by reducing police station fees in the most expensive and oversubscribed areas.

Reform the current fee arrangements that remunerate litigators for preparation for committal hearings. Litigators will be paid a fixed fee for committals, which will be paid as part of the litigators graduated fee scheme.

End the anomaly by which practitioners in criminal cases receive a fee for file reviews which does not apply in civil cases.

It is estimated that approximately £23 million in savings will be made through the reforms to police station fees, changes to committal fees and the removal of the file review payments over the course of 2010-11.

In addition to these reforms, the Ministry of Justice will issue a second consultation paper to explore reforms to advocates fees in the Crown court.

Copies of the response to consultation and the consultation paper "Legal Aid: Reforming Advocates Graduated Fees" will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

## TRANSPORT

## Liverpool Cruise Terminal

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark):** The Liverpool cruise terminal is owned and operated by Liverpool city council. It receives port of call visits from major cruise lines. The construction of this terminal was funded by grant from the European regional development fund and the North West Development Agency. The original grant decision was made on the basis of the benefits to local tourism from port calls, normally lasting a day. It was assessed that there was unlikely to be any significant distortion to competition in the market for port of call cruise services resulting from the provision of grant. It was however judged at the time that changing the use of the terminal to permit turnaround cruises to operate from that location could raise competition issues in relation to other ports operating in this market. Accordingly a condition of the funding was that change of use could only be permitted with the agreement of the right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport.

Earlier this year Liverpool city council sought advice from Department for Transport on the possibility of such a change of use to permit turnaround cruises and the Department undertook a further competition assessment. The Department has now completed this further assessment and has concluded that the proposed change of use would be likely to have an unfair and adverse effect on competition between Liverpool and other cruise ports. Officials have informed Liverpool city council of this decision.

In making the competition assessment, account was taken of information from a number of other ports which provide cruise opportunities on a similar scale to Liverpool and serve overlapping customer markets within Britain. The evidence demonstrates that it would be unfair to allow one port to benefit from a publicly funded development when competitors have found, or would have to find, private money to achieve the same objective.

Liverpool city council has had considerable success in developing its cruise terminal to attract some of the largest cruise ships in the world. I hope this business continues to thrive. The market for supplying turnaround cruises is, however, a different and highly competitive one. It is right that that business within this market should go where customers get best value without distortion of the market by subsidy. It is for the port of Liverpool to consider whether there are options to develop the turnaround cruise business at Liverpool on a purely competitive basis.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

## Correction (Statement)

**The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle):** During the debate that followed the uprating statement on 10 December 2009, in response to a question from my hon. Friend the Member for Walsall, North, (Mr. Winnick), I said:

> "we have raised the basic state pension above prices every year since 1998-99." [10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 521]

The correct answer is as follows:

> "Between 1997 and April 2010 pensioners will have benefited from above-inflation increases in the basic state pension, with pensioners better off by £10 or 12 per cent. in real terms in their basic state pension."

I apologise to the House for the inadvertent error.

# Petitions

*Monday 7 December 2009*

## PRESENTED PETITIONS

*Petitions presented to the House but not read on the Floor*

### Badman Report (Eastbourne)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Eastbourne parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Nigel Waterson.]*

[P000516]

### Badman Report (Elmet)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Elmet parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Colin Burgon.]*

[P000515]

### Badman Report (Gloucester)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Gloucester parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000502]

### Badman Report (Sheffield, Hillsborough)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Sheffield, Hillsborough parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000514]

### Badman Report (Walthamstow)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Walthamstow parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials;

further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Neil Gerrard.]*

[P000505]

**Badman Report (Wells)**

*The Petition of persons resident in the Wells parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Heathcoat-Amory.]*

[P000513]

# Petitions

*Tuesday 8 December 2009*

## PRESENTED PETITIONS

*Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor*

### Badman Report (Barnsley East and Mexborough)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Barnsley, East and Mexborough parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Jeff Ennis.]*

[P000581]

### Badman Report (Chichester)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Chichester parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000618]

### Badman Report (Ealing Southall)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Ealing, Southall parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000580]

### Badman Report (Gainsborough)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Gainsborough parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Edward Leigh.]*

[P000583]

### Badman Report (Hove)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Hove parliamentary constituency;*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[illegible]

### Badman Report (Kensington and Chelsea)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Kensington and Chelsea parliamentary constituency;*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[illegible]

### Badman Report (Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle parliamentary constituency;*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000616]

### Badman Report (Lincoln)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Lincoln parliamentary constituency;*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc. *[Presented by Gillian Merron.]*

[P000614]

### Badman Report (Luton North)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Luton, North parliamentary constituency;*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Kelvin Hopkins.]*

[P000520]

### Badman Report (Maidenhead)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Maidenhead parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000615]

### Badman Report (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Meirionnydd Nant Conwy parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Elfyn Llwyd.]*

[P000559]

### Badman Report (Reigate)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Reigate parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000617]

### Badman Report (Sheffield, Central)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Sheffield, Central parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Richard Caborn.]*

[P000511]

### Badman Report (Shrewsbury and Atcham)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Shrewsbury and Atcham parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Daniel Kawczynski.]*

[P000532]

### Badman Report (Stevenage)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Stevenage parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000558]

### Badman Report (Watford)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Watford parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Claire Ward.]*

[P000613]

### Badman Report (Sittingbourne and Sheppey)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Sittingbourne and Sheppey parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Derek Wyatt.]*

[P000486]

# Petitions

*Wednesday 9 December 2009*

## PRESENTED PETITION

*Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor*

### Badman Report (Charnwood)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Charnwood Parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000632]

# Petitions

*Thursday 10 December 2009*

## PRESENTED PETITIONS

*Petition presented to the House on Monday 7 December but not read on the Floor*

### Badman Report (South Suffolk)

*The Petition of persons resident in the South Suffolk parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to [illegible]aw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Tim Yeo.]*

[P000517]

*Petition presented to the House on Tuesday 8 December but not read on the Floor*

### Badman Report (Aldershot)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Aldershot parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Gerald Howarth.]*

[P000631]

*Petitions presented to the House on Thursday 10 December but not read on the Floor*

### Badman Report (North Essex)

*The Petition of persons resident in the North Essex parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Bernard Jenkin.]*

[P000633]

### Badman Report (North Swindon)

*The Petition of persons resident in the North Swindon parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000630]

### Equitable Life (Stratford-on-Avon)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Stratford-on-Avon in the Warwickshire region of the U.K. regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life,*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000466]

## OBSERVATIONS

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Middle East

*The Petition of the Brecknock Peace and Justice Group, and others,*

Declares great concern at the continuing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to do everything in his power to work for a lasting and just peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians; to suspend all military aid, co-operation and arms sales to both sides in the conflict until a lasting peace agreement is concluded; and to press both the European Union and the United States of America to adopt similar policies.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Roger Williams, Official Report, 1 June 2009; Vol. 493, c. 134 .]*

[P000337]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:*

The UK remains committed to the resolution of the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis and we continue to focus our efforts on a negotiated agreement that can bring a lasting peace to the region. We are friends of both the Israelis and the Palestinians, and we believe that this close relationship gives us the opportunity to talk openly and frankly to both sides to more effectively encourage them towards peace. A comprehensive resolution, covering all of the issues (including - but not limited to - borders, compensation, a just solution for refugees, and the status of Jerusalem), is the only way to bring about a lasting, and fair, peace.

We do not believe that placing an arms embargo on either side would be productive to bringing about a settlement. The UK recognises that Israel faces real security threats and has the right to defend herself. We believe the best way to influence both sides is through the continued dialogue that our strong relationship allows. We believe that a lasting peace can best be achieved through negotiations and confidence-building on all sides, not through the threat of sanctions.

In relation to arms sold by the UK, the UK is committed to maintaining one of the most rigorous and transparent arms export control systems in the world. We rigorously assess all export licence applications, on a case-by-case basis, against the Consolidation European Union (EU) and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

The assessment takes into account the prevailing circumstances and UK government policy, at the time of application. The criteria make clear our commitment to assess the risk of exports being used for internal repression or external aggression. The UK has refused export licences to Israel in the past, and a small number of licences have recently been revoked following a review of exports after the recent conflict in Gaza.

We continue to work with both the European Union and the United States of America to bring the parties back to the negotiating table. Facilitating peace in the Middle East remains a high priority for the UK. With the support of our international allies, we will continue to pursue vigorously a comprehensive peace based on a two-state solution, involving a viable Palestinian state living alongside Israel in peace and security.

### Sri Lanka

*The Petition of constituents of Hon. Dr. Vincent Cable MP for Twickenham,*

Declares that following the end of hostilities in Sri Lanka as announced by President Mahinda Rajapakse, more than 280,000 Tamil civilians, including at least 50,000 children, remain detained indefinitely in cramped, squalid military run camps in the north of the island in breach of international law; further declares that there is a severe lack of medical and humanitarian aid for the needs of these wounded malnourished and severely traumatised war victims; further declares that with the current flooding, spread of diseases and the onset of the Monsoon rains the conditions in these already dilapidated camps will worsen drastically resulting in further deaths; further declares that the detained Tamil people are being held against their will, without any freedom of movement, with the intention of making these camps permanent; further declares that the traditional lands of these people are being colonised and illegally occupied by the armed forces; further declares that it is suspected that thousands of Tamils who are not accounted for are being detained incommunicado by the Sri Lankan armed forces; further declares that the perpetrators of war crimes and breaches of international law in Sri Lanka remain free from prosecution.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges HM Government to press for the implementation of the following: the United Nations, International Red Cross and voluntary agencies must be given full access to care for and protect the civilians in the camps, and then help them to return to their traditional homeland in the north and east; a list of all those still alive and in custody should be published, so that families can stop searching for loved ones who are dead; any who continue to be detained as alleged LTTE combatants must be treated in accordance with the provisions of international law, and urgently given access to legal representation; accountability processes must be established to ensure that international aid is not diverted to purposes other than those for which it was given; UN monitors must be given free access to all parts of the island; there must be a full UN investigation into war crimes committed during the war.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Dr. Vincent Cable, Official Report*, 12 November 2009; Vol. 499, c. 3P .]

[P000422]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:*

Since the end of conflict in Sri Lanka in May 2009, the UK Government has remained actively engaged in working for an improvement in the humanitarian situation and for long-term reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities.

Our priority has been the return of the more than 250,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their homes as soon as it has become safe to do so. We have taken every opportunity both bilaterally and with international partners to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to resettle the IDPs without further delay. In recent weeks there has been significant progress in this regard, with over 150,000 IDPs having left the camps and resettling in their home areas. The announcement that IDPs would be granted freedom of movement as of 1 December is a positive step. Some IDPs have already left, and we believe the opening of the camps and granting real freedom of movement will enable the thousands still living in the camps to start to rebuild their lives. It is now imperative that humanitarian agencies are given full access to the IDPs so that they can provide them with the help they need both in the camps and in their places of return.

Since September 2008, the UK Government have allocated £12.5 million to support the work of international humanitarian agencies and NGOs so that they have been able to provide much needed assistance to IDPs. None of this money has been provided directly to the Sri Lankan Government. In order to assist the return of IDPs the UK Government has been funding de-mining agencies, transport and will provide help to returnees in rebuilding their livelihoods. UK Government funds have also been used to help the International Organisation for Migration with a registration scheme that has issued ID cards to IDPs. This is already helping them to access services and entitlements.

We continue to work with the Government of Sri Lanka and other partners in the international community to ensure that the end of the conflict leads to sustainable peace. We have urged the Government of Sri Lanka to make progress on securing an inclusive political solution to address the underlying causes of conflict. Genuine reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities will depend in a large part on the Government promoting and protecting the rights of all Sri Lankans—Tamil, Muslim and Sinhalese.

Reconciliation will also require a process to address possible violations of international humanitarian law committed by both sides during the conflict. President Rajapakse made a commitment to take such measures following the visit to Sri Lanka of the UN Secretary-General in May. We continue to take every opportunity to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to live up to this commitment. The report issued by the US State Department in October into incidents during the recent conflict in Sri Lanka underlines the importance of establishing a credible process. We welcome President Rajapakse's decision to appoint an independent committee to look into the incidents cited in the US State Department's report. The credibility of the committee will rest on its independence.

# Petitions

*Monday 14 December 2009*

## PRESENTED PETITION

*Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor*

### Safety of the Armed Forces

*The Petition of Mr Martin Burke of Elizabeth Regina Lane,*

Declares that before the invitation by the Lord Chamberlain on behalf of The Queen that the badge for his business be Her Majesty's Cypher, Mr Burke's background was fully checked.

Declares that on 25 October 2007 Mr Burke attended an on-the-record presentation by Sir Richard Mottram, a former senior civil servant, at the Royal United Services Institute. Declares that Sir Richard mentioned the importance of the Armed Forces' reputation, that there was something in the way that he said what he said; that there was a threat to the Armed Forces; that it could be averted; that he had influence, or knew those who had influence to avert it; that they were willing and able to not only not intervene but initiate; which Mr Burke took as a coded threat.

Declares that on 9 November 2007 Mr Burke wrote to Lord Guthrie to suggest that any recording of the meeting be double checked, in case Mr Burke misheard or misunderstood what was said. Notes that Lord Guthrie was formerly Chief of the Defence Staff and is Colonel Commandant of the Special Air Service Regiment and is an expert on government. Declares that on 13 November 2007 Lord Guthrie replied to the effect that he had heard these points before, and about them was subsequently silent.

Further declares that Sir David Omand, a former senior civil servant, in his discussion paper for the Institute of Public Policy Research, February 2009, insists that professional intelligence operations to find out other people's secrets are going to involve breaking everyday moral rules. Notes that this is based on Sir David's experience as former Security and Intelligence Co-ordinator & Permanent Secretary to the Cabinet Office and a former Director of GCHQ. Notes that this stops short of torture. Further notes that Sir David maintains that it is necessary that the public trusts that the activities of the 3 United Kingdom Intelligence Agencies are reasonable, in private the rules are different. Notes that this raises the question of Sir David's own honesty, as well as the honesty of members of the Intelligence Agencies, in their dealings with members of the House.

Declares that Sir Richard Mottram was formerly a Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee and a Permanent Secretary, also in the Cabinet Office. Notes that the Joint Intelligence Committee is part of the Cabinet Office and sets the requirements for the 3 United Kingdom Intelligence Agencies: the Security Service, the Secret Intelligence Service and GCHQ. Notes that also in the Cabinet Office there is a set of committees to co-ordinate government departments, and a lot of the work is done on the telephone or in conversation. Notes that from the House of Commons Intelligence and Security Committee report 'Could 7/7 have been Prevented?' published in May 2009 the Intelligence Agencies have had and have access to extensive information sources. Notes that examples are: medical records, benefits records, council tax records, bank records, telephone records, telephone conversations, school records, personnel records, police records, court records, commercial databases, agency internal records, travel booking information, CCTV cameras, utility companies, driving licences, TV licences, vehicle registration, passports, people, people who have the trust of others, direct questioning, information from overseas, anything stored on a computer connected to the internet. Notes that the providers of such information are not told its use. Notes that this information is prone to inaccuracy and always will be, and further notes that even as a collection this information is partial and always will be. Notes that access to this information is based mainly on personal relationships and not by technical means.

Declares from the above the natural suspicion of provocative and unrecorded actions by the civil service. Notes some examples of such craftiness: maybe you are on the list to go to a place and someone unexpected is already there, creating at the least embarrassment; or your attention is directed one way and someone approaches from another; or someone expected does not arrive; or you do not arrive because you were not informed, or your time or direction of arrival was not as expected; there are others.

Notes that during the Second World War Sir Winston Churchill spoke in the House of Commons and broadcast to the nation for the first time as Prime Minister in May 1940 and rallied the country for the tasks ahead, and yet on 18 June 1940 just over a month later and 9 months after the start of the war, had to warn the civil service that his Ministers, a Government formed with the near unanimous support of both Houses of Parliament, were going to govern; that they were to be respected and their directions were to be punctually and faithfully obeyed; that 'they were not to be treated as here today and gone tomorrow men. Notes that Sir Winston frequently searched his speeches.

Notes that we are at war in Afghanistan. Notes that the size of the packets for biological and chemical agents are about the same as those for drugs which are regularly imported here. Notes that a small nuclear device is about the size of a small generator. Notes that most in Afghanistan would not, however quite a few would.

Notes that the 4 men mentioned in this petition have a great amount of experience of government. Notes that the heads of the 3 United Kingdom Intelligence Agencies are capable of speaking in public and do so. Notes that the Cabinet Office has changed the way it organises itself frequently. Notes that the first man referred to in the letter to Lord Guthrie possibly came from Helton in Cornwall, or another village. Notes that this is Mr Burke's third petition and was first posted to his constituency Member of Parliament on 1st November 2009. Notes that Mr Burke regrets the length of this petition and thanks Members of House for their patience.

The petitioner therefore requests that in order to begin the process of restoring trust in the 3 United Kingdom Intelligence Agencies that Members of the House of Commons, who are elected and serve to lead this country, form an oversight committee to conduct regular hearings with the heads of these 3 Intelligence

Agencies in public so that deeply loyal and completely trustworthy members of the Intelligence Agencies are fully supported, even if discussion is limited to the state of the Intelligence Agencies' accommodation; and that should the question be put the House consent to the request in this petition.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Sir Gerald Kaufman .]*

[P000637]

## OBSERVATIONS

## TREASURY

### Equitable Life (Bury St. Edmunds)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Bury St. Edmunds, Stowmarket and Needham Market in England regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life,*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Ruffley, Official Report,* 19 November 2009; Vol. 501, c. 1P .]

[P000426]

### Equitable Life (Carshalton and Wallington)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Carshalton and Wallington in the Surrey region of England regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life,*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Tom Brake, Official Report,* 8 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 295 .]

[P000482]

### Equitable Life (Daventry)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Daventry in Northamptonshire,*

Declares that the petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc—*[Presented by Mr. Tim Boswell, Official Report,* 5 November 2009; Vol. 498, c. 1095 .]

[P000411]

### Equitable Life (Gravesham)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Gravesham, in the County of Kent region of the U.K. regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life,*

Declares that the petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Adam Holloway, Official Report,* 10 November 2009; Vol. 499, c. 1P .]

[P000418]

### Equitable Life (Halesowen and Rowley Regis)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Halesowen and Rowley Regis in the West Midlands region of the U.K. regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life.*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000423]

### Equitable Life (Hampstead and Highgate)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Hampstead and Highgate in the Northwest London region of the UK.*

Declares that the petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Glenda Jackson, Official Report* 10 November 2009; Vol. 499, c. 2P .]

[P000419]

### Equitable Life (Hemel Hempstead)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Hemel Hempstead in the Eastern region of England regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life.*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying in full with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mike Penning, Official Report*, 19 November 2009; Vol. 501, c. 243 .]

[P000416]

### Equitable Life (Hendon)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Hendon in London,*

Declares that the petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying in full with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Dismore, Official Report*, 4 November 2009; Vol. 498, c. 3P .]

[P000412]

### Equitable Life (Hertford and Stortford)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Hertford and Stortford in England regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life.*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Mark Prisk, Official Report, 8 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 288 .]*

[P000450]

### Equitable Life (Kingston and Surbiton)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Kingston and Surbiton in Greater London and others*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Edward Davey, Official Report, 25 November 2009; Vol. 501, c. 5P .]*

[P000431]

### Equitable Life (Meriden)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Meriden in the West Midlands,*

Declares that the petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life and to act quickly so that policyholders receive the justice that they have so long been denied

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Caroline Spelman, Official Report, 4 November 2009; Vol. 498, c. 962 .]*

[P000408]

### Equitable Life (Mid Worcestershire)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Mid Worcestershire in the Worcestershire region of the UK regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life.*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Peter Luff, Official Report, 30 November 2009; Vol. 501, c. 942 .]*

[P000434]

### Equitable Life (North Dorset)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of North Dorset,*

Declares that the petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying in full with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Robert Walter, Official Report, 10 November 2009; Vol. 499, c. 220 .]*

[P000420]

### Equitable Life (Northavon)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Northavon in South Gloucestershire.*

Declares that the petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary

Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Steve Webb, Official Report, 9 November 2009; Vol. 499, c. 132 .]*

[P000409]

### Equitable Life (Poole)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Poole Borough in the Dorset region of the U.K. regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life,*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Robert Syms, Official Report, 26 November 2009; Vol. 501, c. 798 .]*

[P000429]

### Equitable Life (Portsmouth South)

*The Petition of the residents of the constituency of Portsmouth South,*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying in full with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Mike Hancock, Official Report, 25 November 2009; Vol. 501, c. 645 .]*

[P000425]

### Equitable Life (Redbridge)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Redbridge in Essex,*

Declares that the petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000410]

### Equitable Life (Reigate)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Reigate in the Surrey region of the U.K. regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life,*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Crispin Blunt, Official Report, 26 November 2009; Vol. 501, c. 794 .]*

[P000428]

### Equitable Life (Shipley)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Shipley in the West Yorkshire region of the U.K. regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life.*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Philip Davies, Official Report, 26 November 2009; Vol. 501, c. 797 .]*

[P000427]

### Equitable Life (South Cambridgeshire)

*The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying in full with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Lansley, Official Report, 8 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 321 .]*

[P000563]

### Equitable Life (South Staffordshire)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of South Staffordshire in the Staffordshire region of the U.K. regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life.*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Sir Patrick Cormack, Official Report, 26 November 2009; Vol. 501, c. 798 .]*

[P000430]

### Equitable Life (Stratford-on-Avon)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Stratford-on-Avon in the Warwickshire region of the U.K. regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life.*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000466]

### Equitable Life (Wantage)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Wantage in Oxfordshire.*

Declares that the petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary

Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying in full with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000414]

**Equitable Life (West Chelmsford)**

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of West Chelmsford, Essex,*

Declares that the petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying in full with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Simon Burns, Official Report,* 11 November 2009; Vol. 499, c. 321 .]

[P000413]

*Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer:*

The Government responded to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report into the prudential regulation of Equitable Life on 15 January 2009. The Government have the greatest respect for the Office of the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's important role in the maintenance of standards of public service is unquestioned.

The Government are permitted, in certain circumstances, to reject the Ombudsman's findings and/or her recommendations for remedy. In this instance, where the Government departed from findings in her report, and her compensation recommendation, it did so only after very careful consideration.

The recent judgment in the judicial review of our response confirmed the legality of the Government's decision to reject the Ombudsman's compensation recommendation. With regard to her findings, the Court found in three instances that the Government had focused too narrowly on the issue of regulatory compliance, and we have accepted those findings.

The Government must act in a way that balances the legitimate interests of the taxpayer with those of policyholders affected by events at Equitable Life. The Ombudsman herself recognised in her report that the public interest is a relevant consideration. What this means is that it is appropriate to consider the impact on the general taxpayer of any payments.

A further issue is that the Ombudsman was only able within her remit to consider the role of the regulator and not the role and responsibility of Equitable Life and other parties. The Government do not believe that the taxpayer should fund payments for any losses attributable to other factors, such as market conditions or the actions of Equitable Life itself.

The Government also explained in their response that they do not believe that it is generally appropriate to pay compensation where there is regulatory failure. The responsibility to minimise risks and to prevent problems occurring in a particular financial institution lies, first and foremost, with the people who own and run that institution.

Nevertheless, the Government recognise that some policyholders have been disproportionately affected by the events at Equitable Life. There are strong reasons to act quickly to help those hardest hit. We remain firmly committed to introducing a fair ex gratia payment scheme as soon as possible. The ex gratia payment scheme will be developed based upon consideration of Sir John Chadwick's advice and to take into account other relevant considerations such as the position of the public finances. Our goal is to introduce a scheme that is administratively quicker and simpler to deliver than that envisaged by the Ombudsman.

The Government expect Sir John to submit his final report in spring 2010. Once the Government have had an opportunity to consider Sir John's advice, details of the payment scheme that is fair to both taxpayers and policyholders will be announced.

# Petitions

*Tuesday 15 December 2009*

## PRESENTED PETITIONS

*Petitions presented to the House on Monday 30 November 2009 but not read on the Floor*

### Badman Report (Hendon)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Hendon parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000444]

### Badman Report (Harrow East)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Harrow East parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000445]

### Badman Report (Old Bexley and Sidcup)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Old Bexley and Sidcup parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Derek Conway.]*

[P000446]

*Petitions presented to the House on Monday 7 December 2009 but not read on the Floor*

### Badman Report (Hitchin & Harpenden)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Hitchin & Harpenden parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000516]

### Equitable Life (Hitchin and Harpenden)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Hitchin and Harpenden in the Hertfordshire region of the U.K. regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life.*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000561]

*Petition presented to the House on Tuesday 8 December 2009 but not read on the Floor*

### Badman Report (Walthamstow)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Walthamstow parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Neil Gerrard.]*

[P000505]

*Petition presented to the House on Monday 14 December 2009 but not read on the Floor*

### Badman Report (Gravesham)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Gravesham parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Adam Holloway.]*

[P000646]

### Badman Report (Brentford and Isleworth)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Brentford and Isleworth parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000647]

*Petition presented to the House on Tuesday 15 December 2009 but not read on the Floor*

### Badman Report (Epsom and Ewell)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Epsom and Ewell parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Chris Grayling.]*

[P000537]

### Badman Report (Forest of Dean)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Forest of Dean parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Mark Harper.]*

[P000653]

### Badman Report (Bournemouth West)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Bournemouth West parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000654]

## OBSERVATIONS

## TREASURY

### Equitable Life (Hitchin and Harpenden)

*The Petition of residents of the constituency of Hitchin and Harpenden in the Hertfordshire region of the U.K. regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life.*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Lilley, Official Report,* 7 December 2009, Vol. 502.]

[P000561]

*Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer:*

The Government responded to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report into the prudential regulation of Equitable Life on 15 January 2009. The Government have the greatest respect for the Office of the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's important role in the maintenance of standards of public service is unquestioned.

The Government are permitted, in certain circumstances, to reject the Ombudsman's findings and/or her recommendations for remedy. In this instance, where the Government departed from findings in her report, and her compensation recommendation, it did so only after very careful consideration.

The recent judgment in the judicial review of our response confirmed the legality of the Government's decision to reject the Ombudsman's compensation recommendation. With regard to her findings, the Court found in three instances that the Government had focussed too narrowly on the issue of regulatory compliance, and we have accepted those findings.

The Government must act in a way that balances the legitimate interests of the taxpayer with those of policyholders affected by events at Equitable Life. The Ombudsman herself recognised in her report that the public interest is a relevant consideration. What this means is that it is appropriate to consider the impact on the general taxpayer of any payments.

A further issue is that the Ombudsman was only able within her remit to consider the role of the regulator and not the role and responsibility of Equitable Life and other parties. The Government do not believe that the taxpayer should fund payments for any losses attributable to other factors, such as market conditions or the actions of Equitable Life itself.

The Government also explained in their response that they do not believe that it is generally appropriate to pay compensation where there is regulatory failure. The responsibility to minimise risks and to prevent problems occurring in a particular financial institution lies, first and foremost, with the people who own and run that institution.

Nevertheless, the Government recognise that some policyholders have been disproportionately affected by the events at Equitable Life. There are strong reasons to act quickly to help those hardest hit. We remain firmly committed to introducing a fair ex gratia payment scheme as soon as possible. The ex gratia payment scheme will be developed based upon consideration of Sir John Chadwick's advice and to take into account other relevant considerations such as the position of the public finances. Our goal is to introduce a scheme that is administratively quicker and simpler to deliver than that envisaged by the Ombudsman.

The Government expect Sir John to submit his final report in spring 2010. Once the Government has had an opportunity to consider Sir John's advice, details of the payment scheme that is fair to both taxpayers and policyholders will be announced.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Future of Small Shops

*The Petition of members of the Federation of Small Businesses and others,*

Declares that the House of Commons All-Party Small Shops Group estimates that there will be no independent retailers by 2015; declares that this equates to the loss of 50,000 small businesses; declares that the petitioners believe that small shops are struggling to survive because of local, regional and national Government policies, together with the failure of the competition authorities to deal with the aggressive policies of the supermarkets.

Further declares that the loss of the UK's Independent retailers has far-reaching socio-economic and environmental implications for the whole community; further declares that superstores and small independent shops should not be considered as two separate markets.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to secure the future of small shops across the UK and to safeguard the choice and competition that people expect on the market place; to create an independent regulator to ensure that local retail planning decisions do not have a negative effect on the interests of the local community; and to prohibit unfair pricing advantages such as below cost selling.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew Selous, Official Report, 25 November 2009; Vol. 501, c. 644 .]*

[P000424]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:*

Small retailers are the lifeblood of our economy and play an important role in our local communities. Their survival will be crucial to both maintaining employment and economic activity through the downturn and providing growth as we move towards recovery.

Small retailers can access the same support and advice as any small business. The Government are continuing to improve and build on the delivery of services through the Business Link brand. Business Link provides the information, advice and support needed to start, maintain and grow a small business in today's competitive environment.

A number of the recent measures introduced to help SMEs form "Real Help for Business", a cross-Government brand of outward-facing products and initiatives to help businesses during these tough economic times.

In addition to providing immediate help directly to businesses, the Government's recent focus has been to ensure the banks have sufficient capital and liquidity, and then to ensure they use it to lend.

Going forward, within the context of "Building Britain's Future—New Industry, New Jobs", published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in April 2009, we are developing new ideas to ensure that SMEs are able to grow when the upturn comes.

On 5 May 2009, the Government published a consultation draft Planning Policy Statement 4 (PPS4): Planning for Prosperous Economies. The proposals recognise the importance of achieving a broad range of retailer representation, both small and large, in improving the attractiveness of town centres and promoting competition and consumer choice. Draft PPS4 also requires local authorities to plan proactively for their town centres, and make provision for a range of new development, which will meet the needs of the community, and create opportunities for small and large retailers. Small shops can add character, diversity and enhance choice and we are asking local authorities to make full and effective use of the tools that are available to them.

The consultation period on draft PPS4 ended on 28 July and we hope to publish the final policy before the end of the year.

On 14 April 2009 the government also launched the publication "Looking after our town centres". This guide is aimed at town centre managers and their local partners, and offers practical help in setting out how we can work together to make sure that our town centres reach their full potential.

The Competition Commission's 2008 investigation into the UK groceries market concluded the market was generally working well for consumers and competition was effective and delivered good outcomes for consumers. However action was needed to improve competition in local markets and to improve relationships between retailers and their suppliers, on which subject the Competition Commission made a number of recommendations to Government.

The Competition Commission's investigation looked at competition between convenience stores and large retailers and concluded that, although competition was intense, there was no evidence to suggest any distortions in competition.

The Competition Commission's investigation also looked at predatory (below cost selling) pricing and concluded it was not part of a predatory strategy aimed at convenience stores or specialist stores and was not having significant unintended effects on smaller stores.

# Petitions

*Wednesday 16 December 2009*

## PRESENTED PETITIONS

*Petitions presented to the House but not read on the Floor*

### Badman Report (Aylesbury)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Aylesbury parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000634]

### Badman Report (Birkenhead)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Birkenhead Norwood parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000670]

### Badman Report (Bolton South East)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Bolton South East parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000683]

### Badman Report (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Carmarthen East and Dinefwr parliamentary constituencies,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000677]

### Badman Report (Chingford & Woodford Green)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Chingford & Woodford Green,* Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000661]

## Badman Report (City of Chester)

*The Petition of persons resident in the City of Chester,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000675]

## Badman Report (Derbyshire)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Derbyshire and Derby North and South parliamentary constituencies and others,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000666]

## Badman Report (Dulwich and West Norwood)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Dulwich and West Norwood parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000668]

## Badman Report (East Yorkshire)

*The Petition of persons resident in the East Yorkshire parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Greg Knight.]*

[P000665]

### Badman Report (Edmonton)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Edmonton parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000658]

### Badman Report (Falmouth & Camborne)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Falmouth and Camborne parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000656]

### Badman Report (Glasgow East)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Glasgow East parliamentary constituencies and others,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000669]

### Badman Report (Hackney and Shoreditch)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Hackney and Shoreditch parliamentary constituencies,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000679]

## Badman Report (Hackney North and Stoke Newington)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Hackney North and Stoke Newington parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000669]

## Badman Report (Holborn and St Pancras)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Holborn and St Pancras parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000663]

## Badman Report (Kent)

*The Petition of persons resident in Kent and others,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000685]

## Badman Report (Leigh)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Leigh parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000682]

### Badman Report (Lewisham, Deptford)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Lewisham, Deptford parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000659]

### Badman Report (Leyton and Wansted)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Leyton and Wanstead parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000684]

### Badman Report (Maidstone and The Weald)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Maidstone and The Weald parliamentary constituencies,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000674]

### Badman Report (Market Harborough)

*The Petition of persons resident in Market Harborough,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000680]

## Badman Report (Perry Barr)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Perry Barr parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000678]

## Badman Report (Rugby and Kenilworth)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Rugby and Kenilworth parliamentary constituencies,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000681]

## Badman Report (South West Surrey)

*The Petition of persons resident in the South West Surrey parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000671]

## Badman Report (Stockton South)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Stockton South parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000662]

### Badman Report (Streatham)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Streatham parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000676]

### Badman Report (Twickenham)

*The Petition of persons resident in the parliamentary constituency of Twickenham and others,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000657]

### Badman Report (Wallasey)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Wallasey parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000673]

### Badman Report (Wirral South)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Wirral South parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000667]

### Badman Report (Wirral West)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Wirral West parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000672]

### Equitable Life (Chipping Barnet)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Chipping Barnet parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000640]

### Equitable Life (Woodspring)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Woodspring parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000687]

### Badman Report (Sheffield Attercliffe)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Sheffield Attercliffe parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Clive Betts.]*

[P000686]

### Badman Report (Mid Worcestershire)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Mid Worcestershire parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000690]

## OBSERVATIONS

### COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Waste Plant (North East Derbyshire)

*The Petition of residents of Dronfield, and others*

Declares that a hazardous waste gasification/incineration plant is proposed to be built on the site of Sheepridge Business Park, only a few miles away from Dronfield; further declares that the technology proposed by the newly established company is untested and unproven; notes that there are no long term case studies on the health effects of these processes, while every day more and more evidence is coming to light of the harmful effects of airborne pollution from industry and traffic;

Believes that the site is too close to residents, with 19 schools and around 30,000 people living within just two miles of the proposed site; further notes that the site is in close proximity to many farms, livestock, fisheries and allotments, meaning there is a real danger of dioxins entering the local food chain; further notes that the site is bordered by greenbelt land and protected woodland, threatening the devastation of all the wildlife in the area and risking further contamination of the watercourses and food chain from the movement of wildlife in and around the site; further declares that the site is close to existing businesses that will move away, leading to hundreds of job losses and difficulties attracting any future investment;

Further notes that the waste, coming from a 30 mile radius, will need to travel past many schools, through small villages and country lanes to reach the proposed site; believes this is unsafe, unnecessary and unacceptable; further declares that residents have not been reassured by communications from Cyclamax, and do not trust the company to be running such a hazardous process; and considers that profit and money-making are being put before public health and safety.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to do all in his power to oppose the building of this hazardous waste gasification and incineration plant and ensure that this proposed technology is not given permission to destroy a whole area of Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Natascha Engel, Official Report*, 4 November 2009; Vol. 498, c. 961 .]

[P000406]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:*

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a planning application has been submitted to Derbyshire County Council in respect of the above development. He is advised that the application to enable the recycling and sorting of waste materials and generation of renewable energy at the Sheepbridge Resource Park (reference CW2/0708/56) is likely to be considered by the planning committee on 7 December 2009.

The determination of the planning application is primarily the responsibility of the County Council as the local planning authority and the Secretary of State cannot comment on the merits or otherwise of any application.

Decisions on planning applications are required to be in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It is the responsibility of the local planning authority to identify and weigh up all the different issues, in the context of the specific local circumstances, having regard to the views of local residents and other interested parties.

The Secretary of State may decide to call-in an application for his own determination where he considers that it raises issues of more than local importance but his policy is to be very selective about this. As it is possible that the application may, at some future date come within his jurisdiction, it would be inappropriate to comment on the matters raised in the petition.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 7 December 2009*

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Taxis

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302717]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office does not record the number of miles travelled by taxi by Ministers or officials in the course of their official duties. The costs of taxi journeys since the Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999 are shown in the following table:

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| | *Ministers* | *Officials* |
| 1999-2000 | 366 | 8,153 |
| 2000-01 | 733 | 14,887 |
| 2001-02 | 0 | 7,431 |
| 2002-03 | 244 | 8,659 |
| 2003-04 | 147 | 8,172 |
| 2004-05 | 0 | 7,821 |
| 2005-06 | 0 | 8,291 |
| 2006-07 | 0 | 7,595 |
| 2007-08 | 1,075 | 7,278 |
| 2008-09 | 1,103 | 9,265 |

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Electoral Commission: Leave

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, for how many days each year the Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission is released or is entitled to take leave for service on the board of the Basildon and Thurrock Hospital Foundation Trust; and if he will make a statement. [304447]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that the chief executive is allowed up to five days paid leave a year for service as a non-executive director of the trust, provided that there is no adverse impact on the performance of his duties at the commission. The chief executive does not receive payment from the trust for his services.

### Electoral Commission: Pay

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what the salary or salary band of the Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission is. [304446]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that in 2009-10 the salary of the chief executive of the Electoral Commission is £121,800.

## WALES

### Welsh Language

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will publish before 9 December 2009 all correspondence his Department has received on the Welsh Language Legislative Competence Order other than from Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and officials. [304685]

**Mr. Hain:** The correspondence the Wales Office has received falls into two broad categories—first, the responses received to my predecessor's call for views on the proposed legislative competence order. Those responses which could be made public were sent to the Welsh Affairs Committee and the First Minister and were copied to the National Assembly for Wales Committee that scrutinised the LCO, on 14 May 2009, and I will place copies of that correspondence in the Library of the House.

The second category is correspondence received either before or after the call for views. This includes:

some 300 e-mails from members of the public seeking a swift publication of the Welsh Affairs Committee report. The vast majority of these were a standard text;

correspondence from members of the public and Welsh language bodies. This totals some 37 letters and e-mails;

some eight items of correspondence from parliamentary committees or committees of the National Assembly for Wales, or from individual members of those committees; and

some 10 letters from businesses or their representative bodies.

We have not sought the permission of these respondents to publish their correspondence, and to do so would incur disproportionate cost. Releasing correspondence from businesses and their representative bodies would also prejudice commercial interests.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Official Engagements

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Prime Minister when he last met the Chief of the Defence Staff accompanied by the Chief of the Naval Staff, Chief of the General Staff and Chief of the Air Staff. [304721]

**The Prime Minister:** I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others including the Chief of the Defence Staff, Chief of the Naval Staff, Chief of the General Staff and Chief of the Air Staff.

### Scientists

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions he has met the Government Chief Scientific Adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303989]

**The Prime Minister:** I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues, officials and others.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many external consultants work for *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office. [303244]

**Ms Butler:** The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office and therefore the answer provided is for the whole of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### KBR

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [303286]

**Ms Butler:** The Cabinet Office has not entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009.

### Political Honours Scrutiny Committee

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether any records held by the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee relating to individuals nominated for a peerage have been destroyed; [304581]

(2) where the records and documents of the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee are held. [304582]

**Ms Butler:** No records of the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee have been destroyed although criteria for selecting those for preservation at the National Archives (TNA) are presently being considered. Any records over 30 years old that are not selected for transfer to TNA will be destroyed.

Records of the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee are held by the Cabinet Office.

### Refuges: Enfield

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding has been provided for women's refuges and rape crisis centres in Enfield in the latest period for which figures are available. [302364]

**Maria Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1236W, for detail of individual awards from the Victims Fund and the Government Equalities Office Special Fund 2008-09. Details of the awards made in 2009-10 will be placed in the Commons Library.

The Supporting People programme provides the main source of public funding for housing-related support services in England. This programme is delivered at a local level. The 2008-09 national allocations for Supporting People amount to £1.686 billion.

The most recently available spend data on Supporting People is for 2007-08. Details of this data will be placed in the Commons Library. It shows that Enfield reported an annual spend of £397,817 on housing-related support services with a primary client group of women at risk of domestic violence.

The Government have invested around £11 million over the last five years in specialist services for victims of sexual violence; this is in addition to funding provided locally. Most of this funding has come from the Victims Fund. We do not have a breakdown by local authority area of funding to rape crisis centres.

The Government do not collect information centrally on what services are available for victims of rape and sexual abuse or domestic violence. Information is held on the following central Government funding:

organisations which have received awards from the Government Equalities Office Special Funds in 2008-09 and 2009-10;

organisations which have received awards from the Victims Fund in the last three financial years (2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10);

total Supporting People spend by Administering Authority per Client Group (£), per financial year.

The provision of services to victims of these terrible crimes is an issue for local authorities; decision makers in these authorities are best placed to assess the needs of their area. The majority of services are delivered through local providers who are supported and funded by local bodies, such as councils and health organisations.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average level of fine charged was for late payments in respect of the 2005 Single Payment Scheme; and what estimate he has made of the outstanding amount due relating to payments under the *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 schemes. [303424]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Financial penalties are applied by the European Commission if member states fail to make 96.154 per cent. of payments, by value, under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) by 30 June of the year following each scheme year. To date, such penalties, totalling some £64 million, have only been applied to the UK in respect of the 2005 SPS.

The SPS payments still due are estimated at £9,628 for the 2005 SPS scheme year and £6,440 for the 2006 scheme year. Most of the nine outstanding claims are cases where probate issues still need to be resolved. Some additional sums may become due as a result of changes to claim values following, for example, appeals by farmers.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claims of under *(a)* £300 and *(b)* £500 have been made under the Single Payment Scheme in 2009. [303612]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** In England, for the 2009 Single Payment Scheme, the Rural Payments Agency received 3,748 claims for less than £300 and 4,223 claims for between £300 and £499.99. These reflect the value claimed; the value paid may differ.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average time taken to process a claim made under the Single Payment Scheme was in each of the last five years. [303621]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Based on the information contained within the NAO Value for Money Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General, HC 880 Session 2008-09, published on 15 October 2009 and titled "A Second Progress Update on the Administration of the Single Payment Scheme by the Rural Payments Agency", the average staff time taken to process single payment scheme (SPS) claims in England for each year is set out as follows:

| | *SPS scheme year* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| Number of claimants | 116,474 | 109,100 | 106,700 | 106,500 |
| Number of staff | 3,077 | 2,993 | 2,879 | 2,527 |
| Average time per claim (hours) | 43.00 | 44.66 | 43.93 | 38.62 |

The number of staff shown includes staff employed in shared service and corporate service roles, indirectly supporting processing, as well as those employed directly in processing.

Figures are not yet available for processing 2009 scheme claims.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cheques under the Single Payment Scheme have been issued by the Rural Payments Agency for less than *(a)* £60, *(b)* £40, *(c)* £20, *(d)* £10 and *(e)* £1 in each year since 2001. [303623]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of Single Payment Scheme (SPS) cheque payments issued by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) for the bands and scheme years specified in the question are as follows:

| | | | | *Number of payments* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Band* | *SPS 2005* | *SPS 2006* | *SPS 2007* | *SPS 2008*[1] |
| £40.01 to £60.00 | 4,356 | 2,417 | 807 | 299 |
| £20.01 to £40.00 | 4,920 | 1,861 | 492 | 122 |
| £10.01 to £20.00 | 1,812 | 546 | 69 | 14 |
| £1.01 to £10.00 | 639 | 80 | 14 | 3 |
| £0.01 to £1.00 | 58 | 2 | 6 | 3 |

[1] A change in EU regulations meant that the RPA stopped making payments by cheque on 15 October 2008. All payments are now made via BACS.

Payments for the 2009 SPS scheme year only began on 1 December so we cannot provide equivalent figures at this stage.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the accuracy of the digitalised farm maps used by the Rural Payments Agency for the purpose of making payments under the Single Payment Scheme. [303628]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** For Single Payment Scheme claims up to and including the 2009 scheme year, the Rural Payments Agency has been using existing Ordnance Survey base-data information on Rural Land Register (RLR) maps.

The mapping update currently in progress uses the most recent Ordnance Survey data available in conjunction with aerial photography to update the RLR maps. This includes improving the positional accuracy of our map data and reflecting any real world change recorded by Ordnance Survey.

## Agriculture: Wales

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(b)* the European Commission on the transitional arrangements for the agri-environment scheme in Glastir up to 2012; and what assessment he has made of that scheme's compliance with the rules stipulated by the Commission. [304141]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The transitional arrangements for agri-environment schemes prior to the introduction of Glastir will be funded under the Rural Development Plan (RDP) for Wales 2007-13. The RDP for Wales is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). Therefore, there has been no need to discuss these arrangements with either WAG or the European Commission, nor has it been necessary to make an assessment of the scheme's compliance with European Commission rules.

## Animal Welfare

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reports of abandoned animals his Department *(a)* has received in each of the last five years and *(b)* estimates it will receive in 2009. [304748]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** None. DEFRA does not receive formal reports about the numbers of abandoned animals.

## Animal Welfare: Circuses

**Mr. Keetch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the merits of banning the use of wild animals in circuses; and if he will make a statement. [303056]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** During the passage of the Animal Welfare Bill through Parliament a Circus Working Group was established consisting of representatives of welfare organisations and the circus industry, together with an academic panel from the scientific community. The group was charged with examining the issues relating to the transportation and housing needs of wild animals (i.e. animals not normally domesticated in the British Isles) used for performance in travelling circuses. The conclusions were that there was not enough evidence to show that the welfare of wild animals in circuses is any better or worse than those in other captive environments and that available scientific evidence was insufficient to justify regulations being introduced to ban wild animals being used in circus performance.

In the light of these conclusions we commenced a feasibility study on the possibility of introducing regulations. The first element, a report and recommendations from two zoo inspectors who have undertaken visits to both travelling circuses and winter quarters, has now been completed. The findings of the first element have been discussed with representatives of welfare and industry organisations and we are aiming for completion by the end of the year.

### Badgers

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the relocation of badger setts resulting from the development of land for homes. [304538]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA is not responsible for the policy on determining licences for the purpose of development under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992; this falls to Natural England. However, DEFRA has an agreement with Natural England that it will consult DEFRA if a proposed licensed operation might pose a TB risk. Licences for development can only be issued for interference with badger setts; this is normally by closing down whole or part setts. The taking, and therefore translocation, of badgers, for the purpose of development is not allowed under the Act.

### Bees: Imports

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many queen bees were imported in each of the last five years. [304730]

**Dan Norris:** Information on the number of queen bees imported into England from countries within and outside the European Community is available on the Food and Environment Research Agency's National Bee Unit's Beebase website.

The information requested is set out in the table:

| — | *Number of queen bees imported* |
|---|---|
| 2009 | 10,829 |
| 2008 | 9,575 |
| 2007 | 10,349 |
| 2006 | 4,074 |
| 2005 | [1]2,256 |

[1] Imports from outside the European Community only. More reliable data on imports from within the European Community became available from 2006.

### Biodiversity

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of species which became extinct in England in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [303290]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We have not made an annual assessment of the total number of species that have become extinct in England in each of the last 10 years. In the 2008 UK Biodiversity Action Plan reporting round, seven priority species were reported as having been lost from England in the last 10 years. Natural England is currently carrying out a systematic review of species extinctions in England, which is due to be published in March 2010.

### Biofuels

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the carbon savings resulting from the growing of biofuels on land which had previously been *(a)* used to grow food crops and *(b)* set aside or unused; and if he will make a statement. [303299]

**Mr. Khan:** I have been asked to reply.

Currently, there is no agreed methodology for accurately accounting for the emissions from land currently used for food production, or set aside, if displaced by biofuel production. As such, the guidelines for reporting under the Renewable TransportFuels Obligation do not account for these emissions.

Under the recently adopted Renewable Energy Directive, the European Commission is required to review the impact of indirect land use change from biofuel production on green house gas emissions, and, if necessary, come forward with a methodology for addressing ways to minimise that impact by the end of 2010.

The Department for Transport has commissioned the development of an indirect land use change methodology through expert stakeholder input and will be making its findings available to the Commission in order to feed into the above-mentioned review.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms in *(a)* West Derbyshire constituency and *(b)* the East Midlands were under bovine tuberculosis restrictions (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available. [303191]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Bovine tuberculosis (TB) statistics are collated and reported in the animal health database down to county level. Therefore it is not possible to distinguish the number of herds under restriction in individual constituencies.

The following table shows the number of herds under bovine TB movement restrictions at the end of the last 5 years for the East Midlands (Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire), as well as individual figures for Derbyshire. Data for 2009 are to the end of August. The numbers include herds that were under restrictions for any reason related to bovine TB controls, including for instance a new TB breakdown or an overdue TB test.

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | August 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Derbyshire | 154 | 190 | 143 | 129 | 98 |
| East Midlands | 199 | 257 | 226 | 247 | 247 |

*Note:*
Information is taken from DEFRA VetNet Animal Health Database.

**Nick Ainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle have been slaughtered having tested positive for bovine TB in each of the last five years; how many of those slaughtered did not show signs of TB at post mortem in each year; and how many of those slaughtered had cultures taken at post mortem which subsequently did not confirm the presence of TB in each year. [303534]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The following table shows the number of cattle slaughtered under bovine tuberculosis (TB) control measures in Great Britain over the last five years, and the number of these animals with demonstrable post-mortem evidence of infection having tested positive for bovine TB in each of the last five years.

| | Number of cattle slaughtered[1] | Number of "confirmed" cases | Number of "unconfirmed" cases[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008[3] | 33,973 | 13,283 | 20,690 |
| 2007[3] | 28,200 | 9,145 | 19,055 |
| 2006[3] | 22,282 | 7,687 | 14,595 |
| 2005[3] | 30,091 | 8,715 | 21,376 |
| 2004[3] | 19,936 | 6,355 | 13,581 |

[1] Includes cattle slaughtered as skin and gamma-interferon test reactors, skin test inconclusive reactors and direct contacts.

[2] Number of cattle slaughtered—number of confirmed cases.

[3] 2004-08 figures are provisional, subject to change as more data become available.

Source:

Data are sourced from DEFRA's VetNet Animal Health database, downloaded in December 2009.

Following a TB breakdown we aim to carry out post-mortem inspections of all the slaughtered cattle and to take tissue samples from the reactor (or if several animals must be removed, from a representative subset of those), to attempt isolation and molecular typing of the causative organism in the laboratory. This is done to support epidemiological investigations and management of the incident, rather than to validate the ante-mortem test results.

Failure to detect lesions of TB by post-mortem examination, or to culture *M. bovis* in the laboratory, does not imply that a test reactor was not infected with bovine TB. Indeed, in the early stages of this disease it is not always possible to observe lesions during abattoir post-mortem examination and, due to the fastidious nature of this organism, it is very difficult to isolate it from tissue samples without visible lesions. Meaningful proportions that subsequently did not confirm disease at culture for TB test reactors cannot be provided, as substantial numbers of skin and gIFN positive animals are not subject to laboratory culture—e.g. once infection has already been identified in other cattle from the same herd.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on research on a bovine tuberculosis vaccine in each of the last five years. [303622]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The following table provides a summary of TB vaccines research cost to the Department for each of the last five years.

*Expenditure on TB vaccines research between 2004-05 and 2008-09, GB*

| | | | £000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Cattle vaccine | Badger vaccine | Total |
| 2004-05 | 343 | 200 | 543 |
| 2005-06 | 1,083 | 918 | 2,001 |
| 2006-07 | 2,562 | 2,406 | 4,968 |
| 2007-08 | 3,074 | 2,497 | 5,571 |
| 2008-09 | 3,307 | 2,184 | 5,491 |

These figures do not include the costs of projects concerning the development of cattle and badger diagnostics which are relevant to the development of TB vaccines, therefore the total expenditure on TB vaccines research for each year represents a slight underestimate.

### Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science: Shipping

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science was of operating the CEFAS vessel Endeavour in 2008-09; what estimate he has made of this cost in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; how many days the vessel was at sea undertaking research in 2008-09; and what estimate has been made of the equivalent number of such days in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [302015]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The following table sets out details of the number of days at sea for the CEFAS Endeavour in support of CEFAS managed projects.

| *Financial year* | *Days at sea* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | [1]273 |
| 2009-10 | [2]284 |
| 2010-11 | [3]275 |

[1] Completed

[2] Committed

[3] Forecast

The days at sea figures shown do not take into consideration the time required for mobilisation and demobilisation of scientific equipment before and after each scientific campaign (approximately 40 days per annum). They also exclude the time associated with essential vessel maintenance (approximately 20 days per annum rising to 40 days per annum where scheduled dry docking is required).

Sea trips are increasingly planned to integrate a number of projects with objectives which can be achieved during the same campaign. This typically requires 24 hour operations, so maximising the scientific returns from a single day of sea time.

The annual cost of operating the CEFAS Endeavour include, vessel operations and management, technical support, capital charges, fuel and costs and allowances for CEFAS staff on board the vessel during scientific campaigns. The annual services agreement to operate and maintain the vessel was recently let via open competition with a six year contract signed in March 2009. The agreement is subject to terms of confidentiality, hence annual budgets are not included in this response.

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many days the CEFAS vessel Endeavour was *(a)* made available by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and *(b)* used by other organisations during 2008-09; and what estimate has been made of the number of such days in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [302016]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The CEFAS Endeavour is available 365 days per annum for the scheduling of sea trips. Schedule planning must allow time for non-sea going activities such as mobilisation, demobilisation and planned maintenance. These non-sea going activities require between approximately 60 and 80 days per year.

The CEFAS Endeavour programme in 2008-09 was 100 per cent. dedicated to CEFAS managed projects and no chartering of the vessel to other organisations took place. The committed programme for 2009-10 is also 100 per cent. dedicated to CEFAS managed projects with no chartering of the vessel to other organisations planned. The forecast programme for 2010-11 is based upon the same premise.

CEFAS managed projects are undertaken on behalf of a range of customers such as DEFRA, the Marine Environmental Protection Fund (MEPF), Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Natural England. In addition, on a project basis, visiting scientists, observers and organisations collaborating with CEFAS (for project delivery) will also be present on the vessel.

### Dairy Farming: Cooperatives

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what incentives his Department provides for dairy farmers to establish supplier co-operatives. [303625]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA has provided over £5 million in grant funding to English Farming and Food Partnerships since 2003 to promote collaboration throughout the food supply chain, including amongst dairy producers. There is also funding available under the Rural Development Programme for England to support co-operation between farmers, including dairy farmers, and between farmers and food processors. So far, approximately £12 million has been committed to this measure. DEFRA has not spent any additional money on specific incentives for dairy farmers to establish supplier co-operatives.

### Departmental Fixed Penalties

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many non-compliance penalties were imposed by his Department in each of the last five years; what the most common reason was for such penalties being imposed; what the *(a)* largest, *(b)* smallest, *(c)* median and (d) mean penalty was in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [300295]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** In answering this question we have taken 'non-compliance penalties' to mean all cases where a reduction has been made to farmers' payments under the single payment scheme. The figures in the following table therefore include minor over-declarations of land area, which in a regulatory sense do not qualify as a 'penalty', as well as regulatory penalties for late claims and breaches of both eligibility and cross compliance rules.

| *SPS scheme year* | *Number of penalties* | *Largest penalty imposed (£)* | *Smallest penalty imposed (£)* | *Median penalty imposed (£)* | *Mean penalty imposed (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 17,777 | 59,490.79 | 0.02 | 28.91 | 449.70 |
| 2006 | 12,921 | 105,263.17 | 0.06 | 46.14 | 529.11 |
| 2007 | 13,719 | 67,391.91 | 0.08 | 54.00 | 551.84 |
| 2008 | 7,748 | 135,645.54 | 0.38 | 77.88 | 548.90 |

We do not yet have data for 2009 as processing checks and inspections have not been completed.

The most common reason for 'penalties' being imposed is through over-declared land areas.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301180]

**Dan Norris:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark) on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 80WS.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [301391]

**Dan Norris:** No special advisers are provided with an allocated Government car and driver. As with all civil servants, special advisers may use an official car or taxi in certain circumstances. Information on such use is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302726]

**Dan Norris:** The Secretary of State last travelled by taxi in the course of his official duties on 5 November 2009. He has made no journeys by bus in the course of his official duties.

### Drinking Water: Crime

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions brought by the Drinking Water Inspectorate have resulted in *(a)* convictions and *(b)* custodial sentences in each year since 1995; and how many (i) prosecutions brought, (ii) cautions given and (iii) enforcement notices served the Inspectorate was responsible for in each region in each such year. [303291]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Drinking Water Inspectorate has brought 64 prosecutions (including cautions) against water companies in England and Wales since 1995 for offences relating to drinking water quality. All but one of these were successful. There have been no custodial sentences.

| | *Number* | *Regions* |
|---|---|---|
| *Prosecutions (successful)* | | |
| 1995 | 2 (2) | Central, Wales |
| 1996 | 1 (1) | Thames |
| 1997 | 4 (3) | Wales (3), Western |
| 1998 | 9 (9) | Central, Northern (3), Southern, Thames, Wales (3) |
| 1999 | 10 (10) | Central, Eastern (3), Northern (2), Southern (2), Western (2), |
| 2000 | 5 (5) | Northern (4), Thames |
| 2001 | 3 (3) | Eastern, Southern, Wales |
| 2002 | 1 (1) | Northern |
| 2003 | 0 | |
| 2004 | 1 (1) | Eastern |
| 2005 | 0 | |
| 2006 | 3 (3) | Northern (2), Thames |
| 2007 | 2 (2) | Western, Wales |
| 2008 | 1 (1) | Thames |
| *Cautions* | | |
| 1995 | 1 | Western |
| 1996 | 0 | |
| 1997 | 0 | |
| 1998 | 2 | Northern |
| 1999 | 0 | |
| 2000 | 9 | Northern (5), Thames (2), Western (2) |
| 2001 | 3 | Northern (2), Southern |
| 2002 | 2 | Northern (2) |
| 2003 | 2 | Northern, Wales |
| 2004 | 1 | Thames |
| 2005 | 2 | Northern, Southern |
| 2006 | 0 | |
| 2007 | 0 | |
| 2008 | 0 | |

The Drinking Water Inspectorate has initiated enforcement action 1,084 times since 1995. It has not been possible to divide these figures by region.

| | *Enforcements* |
|---|---|
| 1995 | 143 |
| 1996 | 148 |
| 1997 | 189 |
| 1998 | 156 |
| 1999 | 129 |
| 2000 | 81 |
| 2001 | 45 |
| 2002 | 28 |
| 2003 | 29 |
| 2004 | 21 |
| 2005 | 23 |
| 2006 | 8 |
| 2007 | 29 |
| 2008 | 55 |

### Flood Control: Finance

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the expected expenditure on each *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource expenditure flood defence project (i) under way and (ii) completed in the last two years was at the date of scheme approval. [303297]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Environment Agency does not hold the information required to answer this question in a format that could be completed without incurring disproportionate costs.

The Environment Agency is on track to deliver a programme of flood and coastal risk management schemes that over three years is set to exceed the challenging target to provide increased protection to 145,000 households.

The Environment Agency continuously strives to improve its procurement and management of construction and engineering projects. Since 2007 it has completed 102 major flood defence schemes that have protected over 63,000 properties from flooding in England.

Through the Environment Agency's Streamlining project it has been able to reduce the cost of project development, meaning that a greater proportion of the money is actually spent on constructing defences than ever before.

### Flood Control: Water Companies

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps water companies are required to take to ensure that pumping stations for the drainage of low-lying areas are protected against flooding. [303293]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is for individual water and sewerage companies to decide how best to protect their infrastructure from the effects of flooding. Companies have a duty to provide safe and secure water and sewerage services to their customers.

In its final determinations Ofwat has allowed water companies to invest £414 million on improving the resilience of their water and sewerage services against external hazards such as flooding.

### Food: Procurement

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration his Department has given to introducing a sustainable seafood public procurement policy. [303619]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We are working closely with the Department of Health and the Food Standards Agency on the development of the Healthier Food Mark, an award scheme for public sector catering services offering healthier and more sustainable food. Criteria on sustainable seafood are included at all three levels of the scheme, which is currently being tested in a pre-consultation pilot.

### Hill Farming

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of farmers in the English uplands required to maintain adequate land management capacity. [303631]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The 2007 June Survey data suggest that the number of holdings in the English uplands (Severely Disadvantaged Areas) has increased by approximately 3,000 since 2000. This increase has largely been driven by an increase in small (less than 10 hectares) holdings. There appears to be no change in the number of holdings greater than 10 hectares in size over the same period.

DEFRA recognises the vital role which upland farmers can play in delivering landscape and environmental benefits, and will, therefore, introduce the new Uplands Entry Level Scheme (Uplands ELS) in 2010. Uplands ELS will reward those upland farmers who deliver existing good practice, as well as encouraging positive change. Unlike the current Hill Farm Allowance scheme, Uplands ELS will be open to all farmers in the English uplands, provided they meet the rules.

### Horticulture: Research

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether his Department plans to increase its funding for horticultural research in the next three years; [302476]

(2) what funding his Department has provided for horticultural research and development in the last 12 months; [302480]

(3) how much funding his Department provided for agricultural and horticultural research in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 to date. [302481]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Funding for DEFRA's farming and food research and development programme is allocated in line with the Department's strategic priorities and policy evidence requirements. DEFRA is currently developing a new Evidence Investment Strategy which will inform priorities for future years.

Research investment in the farming and food area is within cross-cutting programmes, for example agriculture and climate change and sustainable farming systems, and these programmes include activity relevant to the horticulture sector.

Within these programmes, in the current financial year, DEFRA has committed approximately £4.5 million on research relevant to horticulture. £6.7 million was spent on similar work in the 2008-09 financial year.

Overall, DEFRA invested £63 million in 2008-09 on food and agricultural (including horticultural) research. It is anticipated that funding will be similar in 2009-10.

### Nature Conservation: Crime

**Mr. Cawsey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were *(a)* proceeded against and *(b)* convicted of offences under the provisions of the (i) Badgers Act 1991, (ii) Deer Act 1991 and (iii) Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [304217]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Information from the court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Badgers Act 1911, Deer Act 1991 and Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996, in England and Wales in 2007 is given in the following table:

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected offences[1,2] England and Wales 2007*

| *Offence description* | *Statute* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Offence of cruelty to badgers and special protection for badgers and their setts | Badgers Act 1973, as amended by Criminal Justice Act 1991 and Badgers Act 1991 | 20 | 6 |
| Killing or injuring deer by shooting, trap, snares etc | Deer Act 1991 | 3 | 1 |
| Offences under this act | Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 | 7 | 3 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice. (Job ref: 573-09).

### Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms there are in nitrate vulnerable zones in each region of England; and what the *(a)* size and *(b)* location is of each such farm. [303451]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The partial impact assessment accompanying the August 2007 consultation on the implementation of the nitrates directive in England estimated the number of farms in the NVZ in each region of the UK on the basis of the 2005 agricultural census.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| North East | 1,078 |
| North West | 15,144 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 14,980 |
| East Midlands | 20,431 |
| West Midlands | 20,350 |
| Eastern | 22,777 |
| South East | 20,328 |
| South West | 24,514 |
| Total | 139,601 |

Details of the size and location of each farm could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Ports

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether his Department has issued any recent guidance on the development of marinas on canals; [303927]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with British Waterways on the development of marinas on canals. [303929]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA is not responsible for issuing guidance on the construction or location of marinas and there have not been any recent discussions with British Waterways on this issue. Developers of new marinas must comply with the relevant planning requirements. Planning controls are a matter for the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Marinas are however an essential facility to support the use of the waterways network and its significant contribution to the wider visitor economy. Offline marinas prevent congestion along our historic waterways and so free up the navigation for leisure and commercial use. This is particularly important in the light of substantial growth in boat numbers over the past 10 years.

### Poultry

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of turkey sales in the UK was of domestically produced birds in each year since 1997. [304747]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA does not record information on turkey sales in the UK.

### Primates: Sales

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria his Department uses to determine whether trading in animals as pets constitutes a business for the purposes of section 7(1) of the Pet Animals Act 1951. [303224]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** This Department does not use any criteria—it is the responsibility of the appropriate local authority to consider all the relevant factors relating to each individual case. Factors to be considered would include the number of animals being sold and the potential value of sales.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition his Department uses of too early an age for the purposes of regulating the sale of primates from the *(a)* cebus, *(b)* callithrix, *(c)* saimin and *(d)* saguinus species under the Pet Animals Act 1951; and what methodology his Department used to determine such ages. [303225]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department does not define too early an age. When determining whether to grant a licence for a pet shop, local authorities must have regard to the need for ensuring that no mammal will be sold at too early an age. Local authorities should be making such decisions based on advice from professional people such as appropriate veterinary surgeons or other suitable experts.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 388W, on primates, what steps the Government is taking to end the trade in primates as pets. [303226]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government have no plans to end the trade in primates as pets.

### Sewers

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* consultation he has undertaken and *(b)* representations he has received on the proposed transfer of drains and sewers to water and sewerage undertakers in England and Wales. [304020]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** In July 2003 DEFRA published the Review of Existing Private Sewers and Drains in England and Wales consultation paper that sought views on a range of strategic options to deal with the problems of private sewers. The Government published a response to this consultation in October 2004. 81 per cent. of stakeholders favoured a change of ownership, and of these, 90 per cent. held the view that sewerage undertakers should take over responsibility. DEFRA acknowledged the strength of support for this solution and undertook to look at it in more depth.

Subsequently, representatives of 50 stakeholder groups were invited to a private sewers seminar in January 2005. This included a workshop looking at the potential impacts on small businesses. DEFRA undertook a telephone survey of over 130 drainage contractors to identify the potential impacts of any transfer on them and also commissioned qualitative customer research to investigate customers' potential views on transfer to water and sewerage companies.

In February 2007 the Government published their decision paper and committed to consult on options for the implementation of transfer. A consultation paper on implementation options was published in July 2007 and The Secretary of State announced on 15 December 2008 the Government's decision to proceed with transfer from 2011.

Copies of the 2003 and 2007 consultation papers and the Government's 2004 response to the review were placed in the Library of the House on publication. A Summary of Responses to the 2007 Consultation on Implementation Options was published in March 2008 and is available from DEFRA. Further consultation on the content of regulations to implement transfer will be published this winter.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, has received representations from a range of interested stakeholders during the course of the Review. DEFRA continues to consult with key stakeholders through working groups and meetings in developing proposals for implementation.

### Sheep: Conservation

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has provided for the protection of the Herdwick indigenous sheep flock in each year since 1997. [303627]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** In 2001, DEFRA granted £10,000 to create the Heritage Gene Bank which was set up to preserve semen and embryos from breeds considered to be at risk due to the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak of the time. The Herdwick was one of the breeds considered to be at risk because the majority of its breeding population were in or near to areas heavily affected by FMD.

DEFRA recognises the need to have a long term view on managing the genetic health of our livestock breeding population and the need for a co-ordinated effort to support initiatives that will encourage the characterisation, conservation and utilisation of our livestock genetic resources—which includes rare, mainstream and heritage livestock breeds. The National Standing Committee on Farm Animal Genetic Resources is currently advising Ministers on implementing the UK's national action plan on farm animal genetic resources which was published in 2006.

In England, from next year, the use of hardy native sheep breeds will be one of the factors contributing points towards eligibility for payments under the new Uplands Entry Level Stewardship Scheme. Although not confined to Herdwicks, those with Herdwick sheep may be able to gain benefits under the scheme which will thereby provide indirect support for the breed.

### Waste Disposal: Hazardous Substances

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many waste treatment sites treat toxic waste; at what distance from the nearest residential building each such site is located; and if he will make a statement. [303829]

**Dan Norris:** There are 224 sites that treat hazardous waste. I have arranged for a list of these sites to be placed in the Library of the House.

The centrally available distance data in this list are derived from the system that the Environment Agency uses as part of the risk assessment it carries out before authorising permits for sites. The permitting system is intended to ensure that the waste operations it authorises are carried out in a way that protects human health and the environment. The distances are not limited to residential buildings and cover a far wider range of potential receptors such as commercial and industrial premises, playing fields and parks as well as housing.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition his Department uses of *(a)* toxic and *(b)* hazardous waste; and if he will make a statement. [303830]

**Dan Norris:** Hazardous waste is defined by reference to the European Commission's definition of hazardous waste which is based on the list set out in EC Decision 2000/532/EC. Essentially hazardous waste displays one or more of the hazardous properties that are set out in EC legislation at above specified thresholds and which may cause harm to human health or the environment if not managed in an appropriately controlled manner.

Toxicity is one of the properties that may make a waste hazardous. Toxic substances and preparations are those which, if they are inhaled or ingested, or if they penetrate the skin, may involve serious acute or chronic health risks or even death.

### Waste Management

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department will provide a clear time line for amending the Environmental Permitting Regulations to reflect the adoption of the end of waste concept; and if he will make a statement. [304326]

**Dan Norris:** In DEFRA's view, it would be premature to carry out a review of the requirements of the Environmental Permitting Regulations that apply to fuel manufactured from waste before the conclusion of the procedures necessary to comply with the Technical Standards Directive (TSD) (98/34/EC) in relation to the draft end-of-waste protocol for fuel produced from waste lubricating oils, developed in response to the Appeal Court's judgment in the OSS case. The European Commission and Austria have now commented on that draft protocol under Article 8(2) of the TSD. The UK is required to take such comments into account and this legal obligation is currently being fulfilled. On conclusion of our consideration of the comments made under Article 8(2) of the TSD, we will consider further a review of the requirements of the Environmental Permitting Regulations that apply to fuel manufactured from waste.

### Water: EU Law

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the water industry of meeting the water quality targets contained in the EU Water Framework Directive. [303423]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The most recent estimate of cost to the water industry across England and Wales of achieving water quality targets determined under the first planning round of the Water Framework Directive is £174,000,000. This includes £117,000,000 in one-off costs and £57,000,000 average annual costs over the six years of the first River Basin Management Plans from 2009-2015. These figures include the costs of investigations which are essential to progressing work within the future planning rounds of the Directive.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Capita

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and his Department have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts since 1997. [303090]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, has no record of any contracts awarded to Capita Group plc since 1997.

The NIO departmental disposal policy states that records of contracts do not have to be held longer than six years and financial records seven years. Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) records go back to 2001. No records are available beyond this year.

The information provided is based on contracts which have been conducted through the NIO central procurement unit prior to November 2003 and the Department of Finance and Personnel's CPD since November 2003.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [303604]

**Mr. Woodward:** There are a total of 8.5 press officers employed by, and work for, my Department.

### Departmental Legislation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [303255]

**Paul Goggins:** The primary legislation made by the Northern Ireland Office since 1 May 2008 which abolished or created criminal offences is as follows:

The Sexual Offences (NI) Order 2008, implemented in February 2009, reformed the body of law on sexual offences. The order contains all criminal offences in relation to sexual offending behaviour. Articles 81 and 83 and schedules 1 and 3 to the order list the old offences which were repealed and article 5 abolished the common law offence of rape.

The Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008, made in May 2008, created nine new offences. Articles 52, 53, 65(6) and 91(4) contain four new driving-related offences; article 68 created one new offence in relation to alcohol consumption in designated public places; and the remaining offences relate to prison security. Article 71, a single offence of assisting or permitting a person to escape from lawful custody has replaced the separate offences of rescuing, or assisting or permitting the escape of, a person sentenced to death or for life, and rescuing or assisting or permitting the escape of other prisoners, formerly in sections 29 and 30 of the Prison Act (NI) 1953. Articles 77 and 78 create offences in relation to conveying articles into or out of prison. These replace the offences of conveying spirits or alcohol or other articles into prison (formerly in sections 34 and 35 of the Prison (NI) Act) with a more extensive prohibition. No offences were repealed by the order.

### Departmental Pay

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; what proportion of the total work-force they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [300892]

**Paul Goggins:** Non-consolidated performance payments are made to staff in the senior civil service in line with Cabinet Office Guidance and also to staff at grades D2 to A in line with HM Treasury Guidance. These payments are made at the end of the reporting year to reward performance throughout the year retrospectively.

Under a separate scheme special performance payments are awarded to staff at grades D2 to A.

Figures for the last two years are set out in the following tables.

*Non-consolidated performance payments*

| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|
| Number of staff | [1]409 | 563 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 26 | 28 |
| Total amount (£) | 609,875.00 | 599,048.50 |
| Largest payment (£) | 18,000 | 11,000 |

[1] The details for the 2007-08 non-consolidated performance payments do not include payments made by the Northern Ireland Prison Service to staff below senior civil service.

*Special performance payments*

| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|
| Number of staff | 809 | 996 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 40 | 49 |
| Total amount(£) | 227,349.48 | 260,865.00 |
| Largest payment (£) | 750 | 900 |

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to his Department was of the provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302967]

**Paul Goggins:** Northern Ireland Office (NIO) special advisers and press officers are located alongside other NIO staff in a number of buildings. Rent, rates and utilities, etc., are charged on the basis of the entire building, and the cost of specific areas of the building or accommodation for groups or individuals within the building could not be separated from the overall running costs of the entire building.

### Disabled

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what meetings he has had with disability organisations since his appointment. [303472]

**Mr. Woodward:** I have not met directly with any of the disability organisations since my appointment as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

### Iraq Committee of Inquiry

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what position each official in his Department seconded to the Iraq Committee of Inquiry held between January 2001 and December 2003; and for what matters each was responsible in each such year. [303145]

**Paul Goggins:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) on 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 974-75W.

### Prisoners: Foreign Nationality

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many foreign national prisoners were discharged from a sentence of imprisonment in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* each month in 2009 for which figures are available. [303832]

**Paul Goggins:** In 2008, the Northern Ireland Prison Service discharged 188 sentenced foreign national prisoners.

From 1 January to 30 November 2009, the service discharged 234 sentenced foreign national prisoners, as shown in the following table.

| | *Number discharged* |
|---|---|
| January | 13 |
| February | 11 |
| March | 25 |
| April | 24 |
| May | 22 |
| June | 21 |
| July | 26 |
| August | 24 |
| September | 13 |
| October | 30 |
| November | 25 |
| Total | 234 |

### Sexual Offences

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many sex offenders were housed in dormitory accommodation in HM Prison Magilligan *(a)* in the nine months up to August 2009 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available; on what authority they were so housed; and what steps have been taken to move them to single cell accommodation; [304438]

(2) how many sex offenders have been moved to open type accommodation at Foyleview in the last three months; and what steps have been taken to inform the local population of the matter. [304439]

**Paul Goggins:** In the nine months up to August 2009 there was an average of 55 sex offenders held in dormitory type accommodation; at 3 December 2009 there were 47 sex offenders held in this accommodation unit. Staff at Magilligan are in the process of reallocating prisoner accommodation, following the refurbishment of H blocks, which will reduce the numbers in dormitory accommodation to 32, with the intention of introducing partitions to provide for increased privacy.

All prisoners, regardless of offence, may occupy cellular accommodation, single rooms or dormitories.

On 24 September 2009 five sex offenders were transferred to Foyleview semi-open accommodation unit (a low supervision unit within the Magilligan prison complex) and as of 3 December 2009 nine sex offenders were located there. This is part of our strategy to make the most effective use of prisoner accommodation, based on prisoners satisfactorily completing a risk assessment and meeting the strict criteria necessary for their placement.

Before being transferred to Foyleview, prisoners must be assessed at category C level—the lowest category of risk assessment. Each prisoner accepted to Foyleview has been admitted as a result of his progression through the prison regime, though where a prisoner fails to comply with the requirements of the unit, they may be returned to the main prison complex.

There is no obligation on NIPS to inform the public.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Colombia

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to seek to ensure the implementation of EU guidelines on the protection of human rights defenders in Colombia in 2009. [302764]

**Chris Bryant:** W[illegible]sited Colombia, I issued a joint statement wi[illegible]dent Uribe and the Foreign Minister declaring that

> "the defence of human rights is necessary and legitimate for democracy, in a country like Colombia which is proud of being fully open and ready for international Scrutiny on this subject".

We work closely with EU partners, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and human rights defenders on implementation of the EU guidelines on human rights defenders. For example, we have made visits to rural communities, including the Curvarado River Basin, and more recently Popoyan, to visit communities and human rights defenders that are under threat, and we are planning further visits in conjunction with EU partners.

We also make representations to the Colombian authorities in specific cases of violence or threats against individual or collective human rights defenders. Our ambassador recently wrote to the Colombian Director of Human Rights, Carlos Franco, to request a greater level of protection for a human rights defender under threat. We also make our support clearly visible by visiting those under threat at their places of work.

We undertake a range of project work alongside Colombian and international NGOs aimed at supporting the work of human rights defenders. For example, we run two projects on tackling impunity in the criminal justice system, and three specifically aimed at promoting and strengthening the position of human rights defenders in Colombia.

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has plans to monitor the trial in Colombia of Jorge Noguera Cotes, former head of the internal security department in that country. [302765]

**Chris Bryant:** Yes, we will follow this trial with interest.

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to assist human rights defenders in Colombia in each quarter of 2009; and if he will make a statement. [302766]

**Chris Bryant:** We are involved in a number of activities to help human rights defenders in Colombia, and to support their cause. In October 2009 I visited Colombia, where I urged President Uribe to ensure that human rights defenders were properly supported and protected.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary recently met Eduardo Carreno, a Colombian human rights lawyer, to discuss the problems human rights defenders face, and to express the UK's support for their cause. Our ambassador in Bogota and his officials make representations to the Colombian Government in specific cases of violence or threats against human rights defenders, and visit them at their offices to demonstrate the UK's support.

In addition to our lobbying activities, we also provide practical support through our project work in the areas of freedom of expression, tackling impunity, equality and promoting civil society.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many residential properties his Department owns; and how many *(a)* are occupied and *(b)* have been empty for more than six months. [303999]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office owns 1,391 residential properties throughout our overseas network. This includes the official residences of our heads of post and other staff accommodation. We do not own any residential properties in the UK.

Monitoring the occupancy of our residential properties is not done centrally, as the day-to-day management of the estate is carried out by our overseas missions.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301541]

**Chris Bryant:** Within the last 12 months, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has advertised for 211 vacancies in the national press and on our website. Online application forms were used for 164 (78 per cent.) of these vacancies. The remaining 47 vacancies (22 per cent.) were advertised inviting applications via email and hard copy. Alternative application methods are considered on request for all our vacancies.

### EC Law: Agriculture

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the UK Permanent Representative to the EU has had with *(a)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(b)* the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission on the application of European Commission rules to the transitional arrangements for EU agri-environment schemes in Wales. [304194]

**Chris Bryant:** None.

### EU Law

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what EC legislative instruments, including provisions on criminal law, which apply to the UK and are in force or are due to come into force, have been adopted on the basis of provisions of the Treaty establishing the European Community other than those in Title IV of Part Three of that Treaty. [302582]

**Claire Ward:** I have been asked to reply.

Two legislative instruments containing criminal law provisions in the first pillar were adopted under the provisions of the treaty establishing the European Community other than those of Title IV of Part III of the treaty. Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law was adopted on 19 November 2008. The instrument is in force and the deadline for transposition is December 2010. The amending directive 2005/35/EC on ship source pollution and on the introduction of penalties for infringements was adopted in March 2009. The instrument is not yet in force.

### European Union: Fines

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial penalties the Government has paid to European Union institutions in the first six months of 2009. [304005]

**Chris Bryant:** The UK has never incurred a financial penalty for failure to comply with a European Court of Justice judgment under Article 228 (ex Article 171) of the treaty establishing the European Community.

### Fiji

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to encourage Fiji to rejoin the Commonwealth. [304711]

**Chris Bryant:** Following the military coup in December 2006, Fiji was suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth. The situation deteriorated further in April 2009, with the abrogation of the constitution, suspension of the courts, censorship of the press and re-establishment of Public Emergency Regulations. In July, Military Commander and interim PM, Voreqe Bainimarama, announced a 'Roadmap for Change', which ruled out holding democratic elections until 2014. As a member of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, the UK took a full role in discussions which led to Fiji's full suspension from the Commonwealth on 1 September 2009. The regime can be erratic: the Australian and New Zealand Heads of Mission were suddenly expelled on 3 November 2009. This was the third New Zealand Head of Mission expulsion since the coup.

Full suspension from the Commonwealth means Fiji is no longer eligible for Commonwealth technical assistance, and can no longer participate in Commonwealth sporting events. While the Commonwealth Games Federation has voted to exclude Fiji from the Commonwealth Games, Fiji officials continue to lobby for Fiji participation. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

(CHOGM) reinforced suspension from the Commonwealth calling for an early return to democracy, respect for human rights and respect for the rule of law. CHOGM also made clear that sporting ties under the Commonwealth name are inseparable from the values of the association.

The Commonwealth is keen to readmit Fiji, but only when the regime demonstrates a clear and committed willingness to return to democracy and adhere to the principles of the Harare Declaration, which includes a commitment to the respect for fundamental human rights. The UK continues in its policy of engagement with the regime to work towards these common objectives, both in Suva and in other capitals, and works closely with the EU, UN and regional partners in encouraging Fiji towards an early return to democratic principles and the rule of law.

### Holidays Abroad: Death

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens have *(a)* died whilst abroad and *(b)* had their death reported to the British Embassy in the relevant country in each of the last five years. [304710]

**Chris Bryant:** Figures collated by consular directorate in previous years related only to deaths that required action by our staff. Since April 2008, we have updated our guidance to include cases where we have been notified of a death even if no action has been necessary.

Based on the above criteria, the number of deaths recorded by consular staff overseas over the last five years are as follows:

| *April to March each year* | *Number of deaths* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 3,925 |
| 2005-06 | 4,071 |
| 2006-07 | 4,577 |
| 2007-08 | 4,157 |
| 2008-09 | 5,629 |

### Iraq: Prisoners

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the *(a)* conditions under which Daniel Fitzsimmons has been detained since the incident in respect of which he is to stand trial in Iraq and *(b)* judicial process by which that trial will be conducted; and what representations he has received from relatives of those who died in that incident. [304040]

**Chris Bryant:** Mr. Fitzsimons is being held at a police station in the International Zone in Baghdad where he is visited regularly by our consular staff. He has not raised any concerns with us about the conditions in which he is being held.

The judicial process is a matter for the Iraqi authorities. However, we will make representations to the authorities should it become clear that there are concerns around the ongoing legal proceedings in comparison with internationally recognised standards or local procedure.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office consular staff have been in regular contact with the deceased British national's family to ensure he was repatriated to the UK as soon as was practicably possible and to discuss any other ongoing concerns they have.

### Students: Extremism

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's most recent assessment is of the level of threat to national security posed by foreign extremists, violent extremists and terrorists on student campuses in the UK. [303023]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

Our assessment is that there is some extremist activity happening in Higher Education Institutions within the UK. The problem is not widespread but where it does occur it is serious. For national security reasons, we cannot release details of which institutions.

## TRANSPORT

### Arriva: Government Assistance

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what net subsidy was paid to Arriva Buses from the public purse in *(a)* England and *(b)* West Yorkshire in the latest period for which figures are available. [303016]

**Mr. Khan:** The Government subsidises bus services in England through the Department for Transport's Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) which is paid to operators of local bus services.

In 2008-09, Arriva England were paid £66,753,127.18 and Arriva Yorkshire West Ltd. were paid £2,042,380.03.

### Aviation: Greater London

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if his Department will ensure that details of all air flights over London are publicly available and open to public inspection so that any resident is able to obtain accurate information as to how many flights fly over a particular London borough. [304760]

**Paul Clark:** These are operational matters for NATS and the Department for Transport does not hold the information in the form and detail requested. Assistance may be available from the chief executive of NATS with his inquiries. His address is:

Paul Barron
Chief Executive
NATS
Corporate and Technical Centre
4000 Parkway
Whiteley
Fareham
Hants PO15 7FL

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has any plans to improve the provision of information relating to noise levels from air traffic in London. [304759]

**Paul Clark:** The Secretary of State for Transport publishes annual aircraft noise contour maps for Heathrow airport which are designated under section 80 for the purposes of section 78 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 for noise control purposes. These follow the standard UK practice of producing aircraft noise contours for the average summer's day (Leq 16 hour, 07.00 to 23.00) where 'summer' is the 92 day period from 16 June to 15 September.

The contours are produced in three dB bands starting at 57 Leq which the Department for Transport regards as the approximate onset of significant community annoyance. Therefore the contours will encompass those areas of London exposed to 57 Leq or more. Contour details are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/nec/

The Secretary of State is not responsible for the production of noise contour maps at non designated airports. However London City airport also produces annual noise contours on a similar basis which are available on the London City Airport Consultative Committee's website at

http://www.lcacc.org/

Modelling aircraft levels at lower levels becomes increasingly uncertain as the noise level decreases, primarily because of difficulties in obtaining aircraft noise measurements that are not contaminated with other sources of noise, such as traffic noise.

## Bicycles

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to increase the number of people who cycle. [302687]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport is providing considerable support for projects to increase cycling, through Cycling England. Cycling England was established by the Department to get more people cycling, more safely, more often. We have increased their budget to £140 million over three years (running from 2008-09 to 2010-11).

Current cycling projects include the Cycling Demonstration Towns and Cycling City (we are investing £48 million in these) and 'Bikeability' cycle training. The first six cycle demonstration towns showed an average increase in cycling of 27 per cent. Our grants for Bikeability will enable an extra 500,000 children to take part in cycle training which meets the National Standard by 2012[1]. This year, we are providing almost £10 million to train around 200,000 children.

In September of this year, the Secretary of State for Transport, announced a major £14 million package to transform facilities for cyclists at rail stations (£4 million of which is from Cycling England's budget).

In October of this year, the Department set up the Cycle to Work Guarantee. Signing up to the guarantee commits employers to helping their employees cycle to work, by providing them with improved cycle facilities, and giving them access to the Government's tax break scheme for new bicycles and equipment.

The Department is also developing the evidence base for the outcomes and benefits of cycling, and provides guidance on increasing cycling to local authorities. For example, in November this year, we produced guidance to local authorities on delivering sustainable low carbon travel[2].

We have also invested £10 million from 2004-09 on the 'Sustainable Travel Towns', initial results of which indicate cycling increases of at least 12 per cent.

[1] The 'National Standard' for cycle training (for children and adults) was launched by us in 2005.

[2] Delivering Sustainable Low Carbon Travel: An Essential Guide for Local Authorities (November 2009).

## Bicycles: Safety

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to increase cycling safety. [302686]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport has taken a number of steps to increase the level of safety for cyclists. We are aware that safety concerns are a deterrent for many people to cycle more, or to allow their children to cycle, and so it is an important aspect of our cycling promotion work.

To this end we have:

Developed a new National Standard for Cycle Training suitable for children and adults. We provided grants to local authorities to enable an extra 500,000 children to take part in Bikeability training by 2012. (Our Bikeability training meets the National Standard.) This year, we are providing almost £10 million to train around 200,000 children.

Through Cycling England's Links to Schools Programme, funded improvements to infrastructure which will include at least 250 safer routes to approximately 500 schools.

Launched a new THINK! education website with resources for primary school teachers, pupils and parents covering the themes of cycle training, wearing the correct clothes, cycle maintenance and using the Highway Code.

Proposed, in our consultation on a new road safety strategy, to provide greater encouragement for local authorities to introduce 20 mph limits and zones in streets which are primarily residential in nature.

Commissioned a two-year research project looking at a range of road safety and cycling issues including casualty data, infrastructure, attitudes and cycle helmets.

And finally

We have recently completed a study considering the safety aspects of a range of supplementary devices on large goods vehicles, including the Fresnel lens, in order to reduce blind spots which can be particularly dangerous to cyclists.

## Bus Services

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the panel of members for the Quality Contract Scheme approvals board to be appointed. [304143]

**Mr. Khan:** I expect to make an announcement about Quality Contracts Schemes shortly.

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many bus monitoring officer posts there were in each traffic commissioner area in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland in each of the last five years; and how many such posts were funded by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. [304144]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is in the following table:

| | *England* | *Wales* | *Scotland* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 10 | 3 | 4 |
| 2005 | 10 | 3 | 4 |
| 2006 | 10 | 3 | 6 |
| 2007 | 10 | 3 | 6 |
| 2008 | 10 | 3 | 6 |
| 2009 | 10 | 3 | 6 |

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency does not fund bus monitoring officer posts.

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many research projects his Department has commissioned in the 2009-10 financial year to assess the likely effects on bus services of changes to the Bus Service Operators Grant; and what the *(a)* title and *(b)* remit was of each such research project. [304145]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport has commissioned no research projects in the 2009-10 financial year to assess the likely effects on bus services of changes to the Bus Service Operators Grant.

### Bus Services: Lincolnshire

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much has been paid in kickstart grants to improve bus services in North East Lincolnshire. [304429]

**Mr. Khan:** £522,067 has been paid to North East Lincolnshire council in kickstart grants to improve bus services.

### Caparo Group

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what meetings *(a)* the Secretary of State, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with Angad Paul in each of the last three years. [303058]

**Chris Mole:** There have been no meetings between the Secretary of State for Transport, other Ministers or officials in the Department and Mr. Paul in the last three years.

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department holds contracts with each company of the Caparo Group. [303107]

**Chris Mole:** There is one contract with AP Braking Limited of the Caparo Group where the Department for Transport provides services for approval of vehicle brakes.

### Cars: Fuels

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to increase the fuel efficiency of new cars. [304054]

**Mr. Khan:** The Government were a strong supporter of the New Car $CO_2$ regulation adopted in April 2009. The regulation aims to reduce $CO_2$ emissions by setting manufacturers average $CO_2$ targets based on the new cars they produce that are registered in the EU. In particular, the Government played a successful leading role, in calling for an ambitious long-term target in the regulation. This target of 95g/km means that, on average, new cars will emit 40 per cent. less $CO_2$ in 2020 compared to 2007. In the UK alone, this is expected to save 7.6MtC0$_2$ per year by 2020.

In addition, the Government have allocated over £400 million to deliver policies, through the new cross Whitehall Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), aiming to place the UK at the global forefront of ultra-low carbon vehicle development, demonstration, manufacture and us. Details of OLEV's work can be found here:

www.dft.gov.uk/olev

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many external consultants work for his Department. [303241]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport does not hold the information centrally and it could be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost. However, following a search across the Department's Human Resources systems, it is known that 146 external consultants work for the Department. The following table provides a breakdown of the number of consultants:

| | *Number of consultants* |
|---|---|
| Department for Transport Central | 95 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | [1]40 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 0 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 10 |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency | 1 |
| Total | 146 |

[1] The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency figure only includes the number of consultants appointed through their Consultancy and Interim Management Services (CIMS) Framework Agreement. The total number could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The Driving Standards Agency, Highways Agency and Marine and Coastguard Agency could provide the information requested only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Food

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300175]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport contributes annually towards the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Procurement of Food and Catering Services Report which can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/policy/publicsectorfood/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of domestically produced meat, fruit and vegetable purchased. The figures for 2008-09 will be published by DEFRA at the end of 2009.

## Departmental Legislation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [303257]

**Chris Mole:** No criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation falling within the scope of the question.

A number of criminal offences have been created by the Crossrail Act 2008 and the Local Transport Act 2008. These are:

*Crossrail Act 2008 (c. 18)*

1. Schedule 4, paragraph 2(2) - creates an offence of installing an electric line above ground without prior consent.

2. Schedule 12, Part 4, paragraph 19(6) - creates an offence of intentionally altering, suppressing or destroying a document which has been required to be produced by a notice served by the Secretary of State for Transport where a transfer scheme is proposed (such schemes provide for the transfer of property, rights and liabilities).

*Local Transport Act 2008 (c.26)*

1. Section 44 - will, when in force, insert a new section 134B(11) into the Transport Act 2000 (c. 38). Section 134(B)(11) will create an offence in relation to the provision of information that is false or misleading by a person operating local services. It is expected that section 44 will be brought into force in January 2010.

2. Section 55 - amended section 36 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c.50) to impose new duties on the drivers of certain taxis and private hire vehicles. Breach of the duties is a criminal offence and so the effect of section 55 is to expand the scope of an existing offence.

3. Section 115 - amended section 174 of the Transport Act 2000 and paragraph 25 of Schedule 23 to the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (c.29) to make it an offence, in particular circumstances, to interfere with the functioning of any equipment to do with road user charging. It was already an offence to interfere with the equipment itself.

The following have not been included in this answer as they are not considered to be covered by the scope of the question:

(a) provisions in primary legislation which enable secondary legislation to be made (and offences to be included in that legislation); and

(b) provisions which change the penalties for contravening existing offences (including in particular circumstances, for instance where the offence is Crossrail related).

## Departmental Parking

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps he has taken to improve *(a)* bicycle, *(b)* lorry and *(c)* car parking provision; and how much his Department has spent on such provision in each year since 1997. [302799]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport (DfT) allocates integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities for capital investment in transport. Funding provided by the Department to local authorities is not generally ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities, such as the provision of improved cycle, lorry and car parking.

Total allocations provided to English local transport authorities (outside London) since 1997 are shown in the following table.

| | *Allocation (£ million)* |
|---|---:|
| 2009-10 | 1,345.000 |
| 2008-09 | 1,290.000 |
| 2007-08 | 1,254.000 |
| 2006-07 | 1,218.871 |
| 2005-06 | 1,215.285 |
| 2004-05 | 1,308.411 |
| 2003-04 | 1,178.476 |
| 2002-03 | 1,123.443 |
| 2001-02 | 1,074.045 |
| 2000-01 | 514.393 |
| 1999-2000 | 535.325 |
| 1998-99 | 479.000 |
| 1997-98 | 584.151 |

*Note:*

Since 2000 the allocations comprise integrated transport block grant and highways maintenance. Prior to 2000 the allocations are in the form of gross approved spending.

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's Formula Grant.

In addition to this funding, the Government have made some funding available specifically to improve the provision of cycle parking. In 2009-10 and 2010-11, a total of £14 million is being provided by the Department to improve cycle facilities at rail stations, including the provision of 10,000 extra cycle parking spaces. A further £62.7 million has been committed between 2005-06 and 2010-11 to provide cycling infrastructure in 17 English towns and cities, as part of the Department's Cycling Towns initiative.

The Department published a new action plan to improve lorry parking in England on 24 November 2009, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/road

The action plan will help to raise standards at existing truck stops and tackle shortages of lorry parking facilities but retains the principle that the financing and delivery of lorry parking is for the private sector. DfT Circular 01/2008 on Policy on Service Areas and Other Roadside Facilities on Motorways and All-Purpose Trunk Roads in England includes information on the role that the Highways Agency has in lorry parking.

## Floods: Cumbria

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of bridges and *(b)* the length of highway damaged in the recent floods in Cumbria; what estimate he has made of the costs of repairing such damage; and if he will make a statement. [302144]

**Mr. Khan:** Cumbria county council are the local highway authority for Cumbria. According to records held by Cumbria county council there are 1,764 bridges in Cumbria which are managed by the authority, of which 1,240 are over or near water. Other bridges in Cumbria will be the responsibility of other bodies.

The Prime Minister announced on 25 November 2009 that the Government will provide funding to Cumbria county council to assist them to carry out repairs to their bridges and roads damaged by the recent floods. Surveys of all damage will be required before it will be possible to estimate the cost of the damage to the local highway network in Cumbria. The flood water will need to recede before all surveys can be carried out. The Department for Transport will work with Cumbria county council to assist them to estimate the cost of the damage to their highway network.

The Ministry of Defence and the Department have worked together to finalise arrangements for a temporary bridge at Workington over the River Derwent. The Department will provide funding for other temporary bridges as and when required by Cumbria county council.

The Highways Agency is the highway authority for trunk roads and motorways in England and has inspected 92 roads over water bridges and three retaining walls on its road network in Cumbria, following the floods. No structural faults were found during those inspections. Further assessments of these structures and earthwork embankments near watercourses in Cumbria, will be made over the coming days.

The structural integrity of the remainder of the trunk road and motorway network in Cumbria was not affected by the floods. However, in the interests of safety for the travelling public, the network is being monitored daily.

## Invalid Vehicles: Insurance

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the number of individuals who own mobility scooters who have purchased insurance policies for their vehicles. [304542]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport strongly recommends that mobility scooter users take out insurance. A survey performed for the Department in 2005 suggested that around 72 per cent. of them do so.

Recent estimates from the national travel survey suggest that there could be 316,000 of these vehicles in the UK, so therefore somewhat over 200,000 of these individuals might be expected to be covered by some form of insurance.

## KBR

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [303342]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport does not hold this information centrally and it could be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost due to the very many number of subsidiaries that Kellogg, Brown and Root have.

## London City Airport

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of *(a)* aircraft movements and *(b)* passengers at London City Airport in the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [303649]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport's latest published forecasts of aircraft movements and terminal passenger numbers at airports in the UK are presented in "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO2 Forecasts", January 2009. This is available at:

*http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/*

The Department's latest forecasts of air transport movements are given in table G8, page 141 of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO2 Forecasts". The central estimate for the number of air transport movements at London City airport in 2015 is 92,000 an increase of 28,000, or 44 per cent., over the 2010 estimate.

The Department's latest forecasts for airport terminal passengers are given in table G3, page 135 of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO2 Forecasts". The central estimate from the Department's forecasts for the number of passengers using London City airport in 2015 is 3.7 million passengers per annum (mppa), an increase of 1.4 million passengers, or 68 per cent., over the 2010 estimate.

The above estimates only include scheduled passenger services. The Department has not modelled unscheduled business jet charters and air taxis at London City airport. The model currently underestimates scheduled air traffic movements at London City airport. Table 2.4, page 34 of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO2 Forecasts" provides a comparison of modelled and actual air transport movements. For larger airports, such as Heathrow and Gatwick, modelled and actual figures are within a couple of per cent. of each other. Moreover, the forecasts in "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO2 Forecasts" fulfil their intended purpose—to inform and monitor long term strategic aviation policy. We currently expect to publish updated aviation forecasts in 2010.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on aircraft noise at London City Airport. [303650]

**Paul Clark:** No formal representations have been received on aircraft noise at London City airport. However early next year, the airport will be required to submit a draft strategic noise action plan to the Secretary of State for consideration for formal adoption under the European Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC). If the requirements are met, the Secretary of State for Transport will recommend to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs that the action plan should be adopted. The airport is currently conducting a public consultation on its draft noise action plan. This consultation closes on 15 January 2010.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the level of noise nuisance arising from aircraft using London City Airport; and what changes in that level have been recorded in the last 10 years. [303652]

**Paul Clark:** Responsibility for monitoring the noise levels of aircraft operating at London City airport rests with the airport operator. Under local planning agreements with the London borough of Newham, the airport is required to produce noise exposure contours on an annual basis. These are published on the London City airport consultative committee's website.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* jet and *(b)* propeller aircraft (i) arrivals and (ii) departures there have been at London City Airport in each of the last 10 years. [303653]

**Paul Clark:** The following tables show the number of jet and propeller aircraft arriving and departing London City airport from 1999 to 2008:

*(i) Air transport movements: Arrivals*

*Number*

| | *Jets* | *Propellers* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 8,993 | 11,746 | 20,739 |
| 2000 | 8,049 | 16,460 | 24,509 |
| 2001 | 7,769 | 19,123 | 26,892 |
| 2002 | 6,552 | 19,932 | 26,484 |
| 2003 | 6,227 | 17,800 | 24,027 |
| 2004 | 7,469 | 19,134 | 26,603 |
| 2005 | 10,907 | 19,448 | 30,355 |
| 2006 | 12,358 | 20,728 | 33,086 |
| 2007 | 19,163 | 19,475 | 38,638 |
| 2008 | 24,502 | 17,514 | 42,016 |
| Total | 111,989 | 181,360 | 293,349 |

*(ii) Air transport movements: Departures*

*Number*

| | *Jets* | *Propellers* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 8,988 | 11,758 | 20,746 |
| 2000 | 8,033 | 16,462 | 24,495 |
| 2001 | 7,749 | 19,122 | 26,871 |
| 2002 | 6,537 | 19,935 | 26,472 |
| 2003 | 6,205 | 17,787 | 23,992 |
| 2004 | 7,465 | 19,131 | 26,596 |
| 2005 | 10,892 | 19,446 | 30,338 |
| 2006 | 12,336 | 20,707 | 33,043 |
| 2007 | 19,180 | 19,456 | 38,636 |
| 2008 | 24,560 | 17,498 | 42,058 |
| Total | 111,945 | 181,302 | 293,247 |

*Source:* Civil Aviation Authority.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has had discussions with the London Borough of Newham in connection with proposals to increase aircraft movements at London City Airport. [303654]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport has not had any such discussions.

## M6: Walsall

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 60-1W, when the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency plans to visit the sites in Walsall Borough, where the work on the M6 motorway is being undertaken, Department for Transport reference 0048 004909/10. [304593]

**Chris Mole:** The chief executive of the Highways Agency is planning to visit the Managed Motorway works on the M6 within the next three weeks. A firm date has yet to be finalised and my hon. Friend will be notified when this is confirmed.

## Public Transport: Crimes of Violence

**Damian Green:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many incidents of violence and abuse on public transport in *(a)* Ashford and *(b)* Kent have been reported in each of the last five years; and what steps he is taking to reduce the number of such incidents. [304929]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport does not hold records of crime on public transport. Details of crime on the railways can be obtained from the British Transport police at 25 Camden road, London, NW1 9LN, e-mail

parliamentary@btp.pnn.police.uk

We are committed to improving the personal security of passengers on public transport. For example, new rail franchises now specify minimum levels of investment in public safety and we are encouraging Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to work with the transport industry to help tackle transport crime.

## Railway Network

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which railway lines have been *(a)* built and *(b)* reopened in the last 20 years; how many jobs were created (i) directly during the first two years of construction, (ii) indirectly during the first two years of construction and (iii) overall on each project; and how much each project cost. [304293]

**Chris Mole:** The following railway lines were opened or reopened on the national network in the last 20 years:

Paisley Canal Line
Bridgend-Maesteg
Manchester Airport Line
Blackburn-Clitheroe (regular passenger services)
Jewellery Line (Smethwick-Birmingham Snow Hill)
Robin Hood Line
Hednesford-Rugeley
Walsall-Wolverhampton
Heathrow Airport (Heathrow Express/Heathrow Connect)
Brighouse Line
Eastleigh to Romsey (via Chandlers Ford)
Channel Tunnel rail link
Vale of Glamorgan
Larkhall Line
Ebbw Vale Line
Alloa Line
Kettering to Corby.

This list excludes freight only, London Underground, tramways, Docklands Light Railway, heritage and other independent railways.

New and reopened lines in Scotland and Wales are included in this list even though for part of the period openings and re-openings have been a devolved matter.

The Department for Transport does not hold information on the number of jobs created in each project or the cost of each project.

## Railway Stations

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which railway stations have been *(a)* opened for the first time and *(b)* reopened in the last 20 years; how many jobs were created (i) directly during the first two years of construction, (ii) indirectly during the first two years of construction and (iii) overall on each project; and how much each project cost. [304292]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport holds information only on the passenger stations that were opened and reopened in the last 15 years. These are as follows:

Syston (1994)
Sileby (1994)
Barrow upon Soar (1994)
Bulwell (1994)
Cam and Dursley (1994)
Langho (1994)
Ramsgreave and Wilpshire (1994)
Whalley (1994)
Briton Ferry (1994)
Wallyford (1994)
Sanquar (1994)
Llansamlet (1994)
Pyle (1994)
Skewen (1994)
Ivybridge (1994)
Prestwick International Airport (1994)
Camelon (1994)
Eastham Rake (1995)
Digby and Sowton (1995)
Willington (1995)
Chafford Hundred (1995)
Jewellery Quarter (1995)
The Hawthorns (1995)
Smethwick Galton Bridge (1995)
Sutton Parkway (1995)
Mansfield Woodhouse (1995)
Mansfield (1995)
Yarm (1996)
Filton Abbey Wood (1996)
Baglan (1996)
Kirby in Ashfield (1996)
Ashchurch for Tewkesbury (1997)
Rugeley Town (1997)
Euxton Balshaw Lane (1997)
Brunswick (1998)
Dalgety Bay (1998)
Drumfrochar (1998)
Whitwell (1998)
Creswell (1998)
Langwith—Whaley Thorns (1998)
Shirebrook (1998)
Heathrow Terminals 1, 2, 3 (1998)
Heathrow Terminal 4 (1998)
Conway Park (1998)
West Brompton (1999)
Horwich Parkway (1999)
Braintree Freeport (1999)
Luton Airport Parkway (1999)
Dunfermline Queen Margaret (2000)
Brighouse (2000)
Wavertree Technology Park (2000)
Lea Green (2000)
Warwick Parkway (2000)
Howwood (2001)
Beauly (2002)
Newcraighall (2002)
Brunstane (2002)
Edinburgh Park (2003)
Chandlers Ford (2003)
Glasshoughton (2005)
Gartcosh (2005)
Rhoose Cardiff International Airport (2005)
Llantwit Major (2005)
Kelvindale (2005)
Larkhall (2005)
Merryton (2005)
Chatelherault (2005)
Liverpool South Parkway (2006)
Coleshill Parkway (2007)
St. Pancras International (2007)
Ebbsfleet International (2007)
Llanharan (2007)
Ebbw Vale Parkway (2008)
Newbridge (2008)
Risca and Pontymister (2008)
Rogerstone (2008)
Alloa (2008)
Heathrow Terminal 5 (2008)
Mitcham Eastfields (2008)
Llanhilleth (2008)
Crosskeys (2008)
Shepherds Bush (2008)
Aylesbury Vale Parkway (2008)
East Midlands Parkway (2009)
Corby (2009)
Laurencekirk (2009)
Imperial Wharf (2009).

New and reopened stations in Scotland and Wales are included in this list, even though for part of the period openings and re-openings have been a devolved matter.

This list excludes London Underground, tramways, Docklands Light Railway and heritage and other independent railways.

The Department for Transport does not hold information on the number of jobs created in each project and the cost of each project.

## Railway Stations: Greater London

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what improvement works on railway stations located within Greater London in *(a)* wave one and *(b)* wave two of the Access for All Strategy (i) have been completed, (ii) have been started but not completed and (iii) are scheduled to start (A) in 2009-10, (B) in 2010-11, (C) in 2011-12 and (D) from 2012-13 onwards. [304233]

**Chris Mole:** Stations in the programme were announced in three lists with indicative delivery time scales, but are now part of an integrated delivery plan which is a live document owned by Network Rail.

There are 35 stations in London boroughs, representing a third of the total programme, and of these seven are completed and six are started on site. The remainder are at the design stage and I understand from Network Rail that seven are due to start on site in 2010-11, nine in 2011-12 and six from 2012-13 onwards. I therefore suggest that the hon. Member contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to her questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding has been *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent on each railway station located within Greater London as part of (i) wave one and (ii) wave two of the Access for All strategy in (A) 2006-07, (B) 2007-08 and (C) 2008-09; and how much funding has been allocated for each such station under each wave for each year from 2009-10 to 2012-13. [304234]

**Chris Mole:** Stations in the programme were announced in three lists with indicative delivery time scales but are now part of a detailed delivery plan which is a live document owned by Network Rail.

There are 35 stations in London boroughs, representing a third of the total programme, included in the programme, and the current anticipated cost for these is £121.1 million and current funding spent is £49.3 million.

Information on actual spend and future years' forecast spend for individual sites is held by Network Rail and not the Department for Transport. I suggest the hon. Member therefore contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to her questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) which of the 150 stations which have been identified for improvement under the National Stations Improvement Plan are located within Greater London; and for which such stations improvement work *(a)* has been completed, *(b)* has been started but not completed, *(c)* is scheduled to start in 2009-10, *(d)* is scheduled to start in 2010-11, *(e)* is scheduled to start in 2011-12 and *(f)* is scheduled to start from 2012-13 onwards; [304236]

(2) how much of the planned expenditure under the National Stations Improvement Plan has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent on each station located within Greater London in 2009-10; and how much has been allocated for each such station in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13 and (iv) 2013-14. [304237]

**Chris Mole:** This information is held by Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should therefore contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to her questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG

### Railways

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) if he will meet representatives of railway enthusiast groups to discuss the revision of official guidelines for railway enthusiasts for the purposes of *(a)* increasing levels of access to and *(b)* maintaining security at railway stations; [304695]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that railway industry managers and staff are aware of official guidelines for railway enthusiasts, with particular reference to the guidelines on photography. [304696]

**Chris Mole:** Network Rail, many train operators and the British Transport police all have policies in place that recognise the security benefits that the presence of enthusiasts can bring to the railway. The Government, too, recognise this and believe that security measures at stations should not prevent enthusiasts from pursuing their legitimate interest. Responsibility for ensuring that staff are aware of these policies rests with train and station operators and police commanders.

### Railways: East of England

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many complaints National Express and its predecessors received in relation to rail services in East Anglia in each of the last 10 years. [304213]

**Chris Mole:** The Office of Rail Regulation is responsible for the publication of National Rail Trends which includes customer complaint statistics. National Rail Trends can be accessed from the Office of Rail Regulation website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Alternatively, the hon. Member may wish to contact the Office of Rail Regulation at the following address:

The Office of Rail Regulation
One Kemble Street
London WC2B 4AN.

### Railways: Electrification

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost *(a)* per mile and *(b)* in total of electrifying (i) the Great Western Line and (ii) the Midland Main Line. [304294]

**Chris Mole:** On 23 July the Department for Transport announced the electrification of the Great Western Main Line between London, Reading, Oxford, Newbury, Bristol, Cardiff and Swansea at an estimated cost of £1 billion, including contingency and optimism bias. The total length of track being electrified is around 640 single track miles, so the estimated cost is around £1.6 million per single track mile.

On the Midland Main Line, a clear scope of electrification work and timescale for delivery has not yet been agreed, so the Department has not yet been able to make an estimate of the cost.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of jobs which would be created *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly as a result of the electrification of (i) the Great Western Line and (ii) the Midland Main Line. [304295]

**Chris Mole:** On 23 July the Department for Transport announced the electrification of the Great Western Main Line between London, Reading, Oxford, Newbury, Bristol, Cardiff and Swansea. Delivery of the scheme is a matter for Network Rail, and the number of jobs created will depend on the delivery mechanisms which they select. Until these are finalised, it is not possible to estimate the number of jobs which will be created.

No decision has been made on whether to take forward the electrification of the Midland Main Line or, if it is taken forward, on the timescale for delivery or the delivery mechanisms. It is therefore not possible to estimate the number of jobs which would be created.

### Railways: Kent

**Miss Widdecombe:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to make a decision on the future of the City Service from Ashford International via Maidstone East station. [302149]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: The December 2009 timetable seeks to make best use of the rail network in Kent and delivers wider benefits to communities across the network, primarily through the introduction of high speed services and the consequent freeing up of capacity to West Kent. There are no plans to reinstate the city services from Ashford International via Maidstone East.

### Railways: Liverpool

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the estimated cost is of building the Liverpool light rail network; and what estimate he has made of the number of jobs created *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly as a result. [304299]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport has made no estimate of the costs and benefits of a light rail scheme in Liverpool as it has not received a proposal from the promoters. I would be happy to receive a fresh proposal for such a scheme but only if a viable funding package has been agreed.

### Road Traffic: Tyne and Wear

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 303W, on Road Traffic: Tyne and Wear and of 4 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 250W, on Transport: Tyne and Wear, when he expects to receive the report of the Tyne and Wear Transport Innovation Fund's work and outcomes; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [303442]

**Mr. Khan** *[holding answer 2 December 2009]*: Tyne and Wear received pump priming funding from the Department's Transport Innovation Fund (TIF).

While the Department discussed with Tyne and Wear authorities the option for providing further resources for the completion of a formal report on the outputs, it was concluded that a business case for TIF funding was unlikely to be supported.

The Department has continued to work with the authorities in making full use of the outputs, including the Tyne and Wear model, an Urban Traffic Management Control system and Smarter Choices initiatives. These outcomes have informed the development of the Tyne and Wear authorities' transport policies, including Local Transport Plans and will inform the development of proposals resulting from the recently announced Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) Study.

Further details are available on Tyne and Wear's People in Motion website at:

http://www.tyneandwearltp.co.uk/core.nsf/a/ltp2_documents

### Roads: Repair and Maintenance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 370W, on roads: repair and maintenance, if he will publish the submission to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State setting out *(a)* the (i) reasons and (ii) justifications for not providing the information requested in question 296881 and *(b)* the estimated cost of providing the information requested, as required in accordance with section 7.28 of the Cabinet Office's Guide to Parliamentary Work. [302908]

**Chris Mole:** The information requested in parliamentary question 296881 asked for the benefit-cost ratios (BCRs) of all schemes in the targeted programme of improvements at programme entry and at present. The BCR data requested are not held centrally.

The targeted programme of improvements (TPI) comprised 114 major road schemes of which 71 are now open for traffic. The schemes entered the programme at various times, 37 of them in July 1998. For the older, completed schemes, files have been put away into storage and would have to be retrieved at a cost of £20 per file. Extracting the relevant BCR information from the files and putting that information into context in terms of what assumptions were made when the BCR was calculated is not a straightforward task. To quote BCRs out of context would be misleading.

It is not possible to estimate accurately how much it would cost to obtain the BCRs for all 114 schemes. It is thought likely that to retrieve and examine the files of one completed scheme would take around half a day at a cost of £260 (PB 5/6 Full Economic Cost rate). Further work would then be required to enable meaningful comparisons to be made between the present BCR and that calculated at programme entry.

### Roads: Lincolnshire

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proposals he has for *(a)* improvements to the A160 and *(b)* the resurfacing of the A180. [301830]

**Chris Mole:** It is proposed, subject to approval, to improve the A160 by upgrading the existing single carriageway sections to dual carriageway and by providing a free flow link eastbound from the A180 junction.

There are no major resurfacing schemes planned for the A180 in the current works programme as the concrete carriageway is still in good condition. A resurfacing scheme from Barnetby to Croxton on the A180 has been identified in the four-year forward programme for 2010-14. Progression of this scheme to construction will depend on available funding and relative priorities at the time.

The A180 carriageway will continue to be monitored and small works such as patching and concrete repairs will be carried out as and when required.

### Rolling Stock

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many of the 1,300 new carriages referred to in the 2007 Rail White Paper *(a)* have been (i) ordered and (ii) delivered and *(b)* are in use for each (A) train operating company and (B) line serving stations in Greater London. [304235]

**Chris Mole:** In the two years since publication of the 2007 Rail White Paper, 543 new carriages have been ordered. Of these 232 are already in service: 148 with London Midland on services operating on lines out of London Euston and 84 on Thameslink routes operated by First Capital Connect.

We are currently in negotiations for a number of other procurements.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 571W, on rolling stock, what percentage of the fuel consumed when running under the wires is attributable to the conveying of the diesel engine itself. [304407]

**Chris Mole:** The diesel engine is switched off and therefore will not consume any fuel under the wires.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Bingo: Closures

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bingo clubs have closed in *(a)* England and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire since 1 January 2008. [303642]

**Ms Butler:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of how many bingo clubs have closed in (a) England and (b) North East Cambridgeshire since 1 January 2008. (303642)

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk. However, the industrial classification is not detailed enough to separately identify bingo clubs.

### Biomedical Research

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what biomedical research into myalgic encephalomyelitis and xenotropic murine leukaemia virus-related virus is being undertaken. [304330]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

In 2008-09 the MRC's total expenditure for research relating to Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) amounted to £728,000. This supported four projects including a £164,000 research programme led by Dr. C Clark at Queen Mary College, London on the general and specific risk markers and preventive factors for chronic fatigue and irritable bowel syndromes. CFS/ME continues to be a strategic priority area for funding and the MRC remains committed to supporting scientific research into all aspects of CFS/ME including evaluations of treatments and studies into the biological basis of the condition.

The MRC recently held a CFS/ME research workshop where the recent xenotropic murine leukaemia virus-related virus (XMRV) findings were among the items discussed. A note of the discussions will be published on the MRC website in due course.

The MRC's National Institute for Medical Research are leading a programme on infection and replication of retroviruses (including XMRV). One study within the programme is looking at how XMRV reproduces in the cell, its interaction with host cell factors and how it subverts the host immune systems.

### Digital Broadcasting: Fees and Charges

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Ofcom on mandating fees and charges associated with wholesale connections across digital platforms. [304133]

**Mr. Timms:** I have regular contact with Ofcom on a range of matters but we have not recently discussed this specific issue.

### Higher Education: Nursing

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many places on nursing degree courses he estimates will need to be provided in each year when nursing becomes a degree entry profession, taking account of estimated drop-out rates. [303357]

**Ann Keen:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not hold this information centrally. It is for local employers to decide what skill mix they need to deliver their services. Strategic health authorities, working with national health service organisations and education providers will be planning for and determining the future numbers of nurses they need, including the numbers of places on pre-registration nursing programmes they commission.

### Manufacturing Industries: Closures

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of small and medium-sized enterprises in the manufacturing sector which have closed in each quarter since March 2008; and if he will make a statement. [302138]

**Ms Butler:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of small and medium-sized enterprises in the manufacturing industry which have closed in each quarter since March 2008. (302138)

Quarterly data on the closure of enterprises are not available. However, annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk. The table below contains counts of enterprise deaths in manufacturing in 2008.

*Count of deaths of enterprises for 2008, Manufacturing, UK*

| *Employment* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 0-49 | 11,410 |
| 50-249 | 105 |
| 250+ | 10 |
| Total | 11,525 |

### Post Office

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much subsidy the Government plan to provide to the Post Office after 2011. [304196]

**Mr. McFadden:** No decisions have been taken beyond the current settlement, but the Government are committed to supporting the non-commercial segment of the post office network beyond 2011 and are in regular dialogue with Post Office Ltd.

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post office branches have closed since the completion of the Network Change Programme. [304197]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

### Prince Madog

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for how many days the research vessel Prince Madog was *(a)* hired and *(b)* used by organisations other than the Natural Environment Research Council in 2008-09; and what estimate has been made of the equivalent figures for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [302018]

**Mr. Lammy:** The research vessel Prince Madog is owned by a joint venture company, VT Ocean Sciences. Operational arrangements are a matter for the company.

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what grant was made from the joint infrastructure fund to VT Ocean Sciences as a contribution towards the costs of the research vessel Prince Madog; and what such funding is expected to be provided in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [302019]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) awarded one £2.8 million Joint Infrastructure Funding (JIF) grant in 1999 to contribute to the capital cost of the research vessel Prince Madog. NERC has not provided any other capital funding and there is no planned capital funding for the vessel.

### Royal Mail: Industrial Disputes

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress has been made in discussions between Royal Mail and the Communication Workers Union; and what assessment he has made of the likelihood of a final agreement being reached soon. [303662]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 2 December 2009]*: We are pleased that the discussions between Royal Mail and the Communication Workers Union established by the agreement on 6 November are continuing. The detail of those discussions, however, is a confidential matter for both parties.

The Government want to see a successful outcome to the discussions and welcome the appointment of Roger Poole (former Assistant General Secretary of NUPE and of UNISON and Chairman of the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland) to oversee the process. Both parties need to keep talking until an agreement is made on a way forward on the next phase of modernisation, which everyone accepts is vital for the company's future.

### Royal Mail: Pay

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms are in place for the Shareholder Executive to review the remuneration and benefits package of the Chief Executive of Royal Mail. [304694]

**Mr. McFadden:** Royal Mail's Remuneration Committee is responsible for the remuneration of the company's Executive Board members. As special shareholder, the Secretary of State's consent is required for any material changes to the Directors' remuneration. His approval is also required for the Framework for short and long term bonuses but the final decision on bonus payments rests with the Committee. Details of the Directors' remuneration are set out annually in the company's Report and Accounts.

### RRV James Cook

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate has been made of the cost of rectifying the problem of acoustic noise from the bow of the Natural Environment Research Council vessel RRV James Cook; and how many operational days are expected to be lost while corrective modifications are made. [302017]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) has not yet initiated a project to rectify the bow issue on the RRS James Cook. There is therefore no available estimate of the cost, or the time that would be lost while any modifications are made.

### Scientists

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions the Secretary of State has met *(a)* the Government Chief Scientific Adviser and *(b)* his Department's Chief Scientific Adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303990]

**Mr. McFadden:** My noble Friend the Secretary of State met the Government chief scientific adviser on 30 July and has met his Department's chief scientific adviser in the course of various departmental policy discussions over the last 12 months.

### Unsolicited Goods and Services: Telephones

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to protect telecommunications customers from unsolicited telephone calls from companies claiming to be processing a refund and seeking to obtain bank account details for fraudulent purposes. [304140]

**Mr. Timms:** The Department for Trade and Industry introduced the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) scheme in 1999 under the Telecommunications (Data Protection and Privacy) Regulations, which were updated by the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations in 2003. The TPS scheme currently has 15.4 million registered numbers and reports an 85 per cent. success rate in preventing unsolicited calls. The TPS scheme provides protection from unsolicited marketing calls after subscribers have been registered for 28 days or have previously notified the caller that they do not wish to receive such calls, which under Regulation 21 also applies to those who are not TPS registered. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has responsibility for the enforcement of the TPS scheme and considers complaints about breaches. Recipients of these types of calls are advised to be cautious about disclosing personal details without first checking to ensure that the call is genuine. Suspected fraudulent activity should be reported to the police.

## TREASURY

### Asset Protection Scheme

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* has committed to spend on external advice on the Asset Protection Scheme in respect of (i) Royal Bank of Scotland and (ii) Lloyds Banking Group; and if he will list the sources of that advice. [303558]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry** *[holding answer 2 December 2009]:* Lloyds and RBS have agreed to refund HM Treasury the costs it incurs in establishing and operating the Asset Protection Scheme, including those of external advisers.

When it decided not to participate in the scheme on 3 November, Lloyds agreed to pay HM Treasury £26 million, its share of the costs to that date of HM Treasury's own staff working on the APS, the costs of external advisers and the costs of establishing the Asset Protection Agency.

RBS has paid the Treasury £45 million, being the Treasury's current estimate of RBS' share of the costs to date incurred by the Treasury in developing and setting up the APS and the APA.

HM Treasury has received legal advice from Slaughters and May and financial advice from Ernst and Young, KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Citigroup, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank and Blackrock. The cost to the Treasury of these advisers has been fully met by Lloyds and RBS.

### Bank of England: Loans

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what loans of over £1 billion were made by the Bank of England in the 2008-09 financial year. [302989]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Operational details are a matter for the Bank of England.

### Bank Services: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people who paid overdraft charges between July 2007 and the date of the Supreme Court's ruling on the powers of the Office of Fair Trading to determine the fairness of such changes. [303886]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Treasury does not collect these data.

### Banks: Government Assistance

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of each signed share subscription agreement between his Department and each bank in respect of public funds. [302696]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The placing and open offer agreements, and preference share subscription agreements, for the recapitalisation of RBS, HBOS and Lloyds were deposited in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament on 18 November 2008.

I have today placed copies of the placing and open offer agreements relating to the redemption of the Government's preference share holdings in RBS and Lloyds, dated 19 January 2009 (RBS) and 7 March 2009 (Lloyds), in the Libraries.

In addition I have today placed copies of the documents relating to the Government's upcoming subscription to Lloyds' rights issue, and to Lloyds' withdrawal from the Asset Protection Scheme (APS), in the Libraries. These are dated 2 and 3 November 2009.

I have also today placed copies of all legal documentation associated with RBS's participation in the APS in the Libraries, subject only to any necessary redactions to protect commercial interests.

### Banks: Loans

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the auditors of the accounts of the Bank of England for 2008-09 were informed of the loan to *(a)* RBS and *(b)* HBOS made in October 2008. [302985]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Bank's auditors were made aware of the emergency liquidity assistance to RBS and HBOS prior to the commencement of their audit of the Bank's accounts for the year to 28 February 2009.

The relevant Bank of England Annual Report can be accessed via:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/annualreport/index.htm

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Court of Directors of the Bank of England was informed of the loan made to *(a)* RBS and *(b)* HBOS in October 2008. [302986]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Court of the Bank, acting through its Transactions Committee, was consulted in a number of meetings between 1 October and 13 October 2008.

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what requirements there are on the Bank of England in respect of disclosure of information on loans made in each financial year, with particular reference to the bank's annual report and accounts. [302988]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Bank's financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2009 (and in earlier years) state that where the Bank acts as a lender of last resort, the financial effects of such operations will be included in the financial statements in the year in which they occur although these financial statements may not explicitly identify the existence of such support. This was the case for the year ending 28 February 2009. The Bank's auditors confirmed that the financial statements for the year were properly prepared in accordance with the stated basis of preparation set out in the notes to the accounts.

The relevant Bank of England annual report can be accessed via:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/annualreport/index.htm

### Defence Training College

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Major Projects Review Group plans to publish its conclusions on the Defence Technical College proposals at St. Athan. [304520]

**Ian Pearson:** It is not normal practice for Major Projects Review Group information to be made public.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residential properties his Department owns; and how many *(a)* are occupied and *(b)* have been empty for more than six months. [304002]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer the then Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury gave to the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main) on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 364W.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [303607]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Nine full-time equivalent press officers are employed by HM Treasury, as well as one FTE working under contract to cover a vacant full-time post.

### EU Law

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* statutory instruments and *(b)* other regulations his Department has brought forward in the 2005 Parliament to meet obligations arising from EU law. [304180]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Financial Services

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* adults and *(b)* households that do not use any financial services. [303847]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** On 19 October the Financial Inclusion Taskforce published its fourth annual report on access to banking. The taskforce used data from the Family Resources Survey to estimate that around 890,000 adults living in 690,000 households do not have access to either a banking or a saving account. Of these, 590,000 adults have a Post Office card account, which enables them to receive benefits directly.

### Government: Assets

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value is of the equity stake held by the Government in each financial institution recapitalised from the public purse. [303793]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** As disclosed in UKFI's Annual Report, the Government currently hold 39,645 million ordinary shares in the Royal Bank of Scotland, equivalent to 70 per cent. of voting share capital. The total price at purchase of this investment was a net £20 billion. In connection with the asset protection scheme, the Government shareholding is due to increase by up to an additional 51,000 million non-voting B shares at a price of 50p per share.

The Government currently hold 11,799 million ordinary shares in the Lloyds Banking Group, equivalent to 43 per cent. of voting share capital. The total price at purchase of this investment was a net £14.5 billion. The Government have announced that they will take up their share of the forthcoming Rights Issue, increasing their shareholding by an additional 15,810 million ordinary shares at a price of 37p per share.

### National Insurance Contributions: Foreign Workers

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* employee and *(b)* employer national insurance contributions are payable in respect of intra-company transferees under Tier Two of the points-based immigration system with work permits which state that the transferees intend to spend less than two years in the UK. [304136]

**Mr. Timms:** Intra company transferees and their employers (or if their employer is overseas, their host employers) pay National Insurance in the UK. There are exceptions where:

1. The employee is entitled to exception from national insurance under European Community Regulations 1408/71 that operate within the European economic area and Switzerland, or under a bi-lateral social security agreement with another country; or

2. The employee comes from outside the European economic area, Switzerland, or a bi-lateral social security agreement country and falls within the 52 week exception in Regulation 145(2) Social Security Contributions Regulations 2001, that applies to certain seconded workers who are not ordinarily resident in the UK.

### Revenue and Customs

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what improvement programmes were in operation at HM Revenue and Customs in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; how much each has cost; how much each programme has spent on external consultants; and which official of HM Revenue and Customs had oversight of each programme. [303066]

**Mr. Timms:** Since 2006, HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) major change and improvement programmes have been delivered through the Department's investment portfolio known as the 'Departmental Transformation Programme'. Total expenditure, including consultancy, on these programmes is set out in the table.

The successful delivery of a change portfolio of the scale and complexity of HMRC's Departmental Transformation Programme depends critically on suitably skilled project management personnel as well as specialists in niche areas, e.g. data security and commercial banking. Where HMRC staff with the necessary skills and experience are not available, the Department will employ, through its commercial frameworks, external contractors and consultants to ensure successful programme delivery.

*£ million*

| | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | | *2008-09* | | *2009-10 (forecast at November 2009)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Programmes* | *Total* | *Consultancy* | *Total* | *Consultancy* | *Total* | *Consultancy* | *Total* | *Consultancy* |
| Agents and Employers | — | — | — | — | 1.2 | 0.5 | — | — |
| Business Intelligence | 40.0 | 0.6 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Business.gov | — | — | 21.0 | — | 35.4 | — | 35.8 | — |
| Capability Review | — | — | — | — | 3.5 | 3.2 | 0.7 | 0.5 |
| Carter (previously Online Services) | 23.0 | 6.3 | 84.7 | 0.9 | 89.2 | 0.7 | 74.2 | 1.0 |
| Compliance and Enforcement | 71.9 | 13.8 | 59.3 | 8.0 | 87.3 | 6.1 | 67.1 | 1.8 |
| Compliance and Enforcement—Debt Management | — | — | — | — | — | — | 6.4 | — |
| Construction Industry Scheme | 34.0 | 1.0 | 6.8 | 0.2 | 0.6 | — | — | — |
| Customer Contact | 43.0 | 9.8 | 3.8 | 0.7 | — | — | — | — |
| Customer Foundations | 6.0 | 3.5 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Customer Interactions | — | — | — | — | 8.7 | 4.2 | — | — |
| Customs Service Transformation | 5.0 | 2.4 | 13.9 | 2.5 | 25.3 | 2.9 | 25.4 | 1.6 |
| Data Quality | 12.0 | 7.6 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Data Security | — | — | — | — | 43.9 | 2.1 | 18.7 | 1.7 |
| Direct Debits | — | — | — | — | 3.4 | — | — | — |
| Enterprise Infrastructure/ Disaster Recovery | 19.0 | 0.2 | 8.5 | 0.9 | 19.2 | 1.1 | — | — |
| ERP Shared Services | — | — | — | — | 4.7 | 0.2 | — | — |
| Estates Consolidation | 14.0 | — | 31.3 | — | 38.6 | — | 22.1 | — |
| Estates Transformation | — | — | 2.7 | — | 3.1 | — | — | — |
| e-Sourcing | — | — | 0.7 | 0.4 | 1.7 | 0.6 | — | — |
| Government Banking | 1.0 | — | 12.6 | 4.9 | 22.1 | 8.2 | 17.4 | 11.1 |
| Human Resources initiatives | 4.0 | 0.3 | — | — | — | — | — | — |

*£ million*

| *Programmes* | *2006-07* |  | *2007-08* |  | *2008-09* |  | *2009-10 (forecast at November 2009)* |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | *Total* | *Consultancy* | *Total* | *Consultancy* | *Total* | *Consultancy* | *Total* | *Consultancy* |
| Information Technology (Desktop upgrade) | 52.0 | 1.9 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Integrated Customer Management | 1.0 | — |  | — | — | — | — | — |
| Joint Working DWP/ Transform Government | 1.0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northgate transfer of payroll to HMRC |  | — | 3.9 | — | 1.4 | — | — | — |
| Pacesetter (all programmes) | — | — | — | — | 5.9 | 4.8 | 11.9 | 7.9 |
| PAYE(MPPC) | 27.0 | 0.2 | 63.8 | 0.4 | 73.6 | 9.0 | 43.4 | 7.2 |
| Pensions Simplification | 14.0 | 0.4 | 5.1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| People, Culture and Skills | 9.0 | 0.3 | — |  | — | — | — | — |
| PAYE Improvement Group | — | — | — | — | 0.1 | — | — | — |
| Performance Management Framework | — | — | 0.9 | — | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Policy Development Programme | 19.0 | 0.5 | — | — | 34.9 | 4.5 | 42.8 | 2.2 |
| Processing Pacesetter | 18.0 | 10.3 | 12.3 | 2.7 | 6.1 | 0.7 | — | — |
| Strategic Investment | 3.0 | 1.2 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tax Credits | 1.0 | 0.3 | 8.9 | 0.8 | 14.1 | 0.9 | 10.7 | — |
| Taxpayer Understanding | — | — | 2.0 | 1.9 | 0.0 | — | — | — |
| Transform Debt Managements. Banking | 6.0 | 0.8 | 15.1 | 0.8 | — | — | — | — |
| Web Convergence | — | — | 4.4 | 3.1 | — | — | — | — |
| Workforce Change | — | — | — | — | 65.9 | — | — | — |
| HMRC overheads[1] | 5.5 | — | 12.2 | — | 3.6 | — | 4.2 | — |
| IT service line charges[1] | — | — | 47.5 | — | 53.2 | — | 60.0 | — |
| Total | 429.4 | 61.5 | 421.4 | 28.2 | 647.5 | 50.6 | 441.2 | 35.2 |

[1] These items represent expenditure commitments funded though the DTP and are not formal delivery programmes.

The HMRC Senior Responsible Owners for each of the programmes in delivery during 2009-10 are as follows:

| *Programme* | *Senior responsible owner* |
|---|---|
| Business.gov | Stephen Banyard |
| Capability Review | Steve Lamey |
| Carter | Stephen Banyard |
| Compliance and Enforcement | Mike Eland |
| Customs Service Transformation | Mike Norgrove |
| Data Security | Mary Aiston |
| Debt Management and Banking | Nick Lodge |
| Estates Consolidation | Paul King |
| Government Banking | Dave Hartnett |
| Method of Payments | Jon Fundrey |
| MPPC (PAYE) | Bernadette Kenny |
| PaceSetter—Benefits and Credits | Richard Summersgill |
| PaceSetter—Business Tax | Theresa Hobson—Fro[illegible]x |
| PaceSetter—Charity, Assets and Residence | Charles Hall |
| PaceSetter—Customer Contact | Theresa Middleton |
| PaceSetter—Chief People Office function | Cathy Wilcher (to end—November 2009) |
| PaceSetter—Corporate Shared Services | Cathy Wilcher (to end—November 2009) |
| PaceSetter—Customer Operations | Simon Smith |
| PaceSetter—Debt Management and Banking | Nick Lodge |
| PaceSetter—Enforcement and Compliance | Mike Eland |
| PaceSetter—HMRC Central | Alison McDonald |
| Performance Management Framework | Mary Aiston |
| Policy Programme | Peter Michael |
| Tax Credits | Steve Lowthian |

## Scientists

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions he has met the Government Chief Scientific Adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303881]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

## Taxation: Gaming

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on his Department's consultation on gross profits tax in respect of adult gaming centres. [304135]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Government issued a consultation on the future of gaming machine taxation on 16 July. The consultation period formally closed on 23 October. The responses received during the consultation are currently being analysed and reviewed by officials. No decisions will be taken on the future of gaming machines taxation until this analysis is complete.

### VAT: Northern Ireland

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue which accrued to the Exchequer in value added tax (VAT) from VAT-registered businesses in each constituency in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [304266]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not available. Although HM Revenue and Customs holds data on the place of registration by trader this has not been analysed by constituency. The address of registration is not necessarily the same as the location the trader will be operating from, for example a chain would only have one VAT registration covering all its branches, so would be unreliable for identifying the VAT accrued in that constituency.

### Winter Fuel Payments: Income Tax

**David Howarth:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many persons in receipt of winter fuel allowance pay income tax at the *(a)* standard and *(b)* higher rate. [303741]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not available. However, winter fuel payments are paid to most people aged 60 and over, and the estimated number of income taxpayers for 2009-10 in this age group is 6.4 million, of which 6.0 million pay income tax at the basic rate or starting rate on savings income and 0.4 million pay income tax at the higher rate.

### Working Tax Credit

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of enabling recipients of the childcare element of working tax credit to continue to receive it for 12 weeks following redundancy; and if he will make a statement; [303737]

(2) how many unemployed people claimed the childcare element of working tax credit in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [303738]

**Mr. Timms:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member on 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 604W.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Audit Commission: Public Relations

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 640W, on Audit Commission: public relations, what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* purpose was of the work entitled (i) one off project fee of 10 June 2009, (ii) Connect fee as agreed of 12 June 2009 and (iii) each Connect fee of 14 September 2009. [304714]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 7 December 2009:*

The nature and purpose of the work paid for on 10 June 2009 was to provide an informed analysis of changes in departmental portfolios and policies following the reshuffle of government ministers, of possible changes in the machinery of government, and of responses by Opposition parties in the House of Commons and House of Lords.

The purpose of the work paid for on 12 June 2009 was to update our parliamentary database (held for the purposes of supplying MPs with reports and studies relevant to their known interests and their constituencies); to update our records of where prospective candidates had been selected; and to provide informed commentary on the potential electoral effects of the controversy over MPs expenses.

The purpose of the work paid for on 14 September 2009 was to provide further updates on parliamentary constituencies where MPs had announced they were standing down at the next general election; a briefing on changes in the electoral and policy landscape in the run-up to the general election; and analysis of policy commitments made by the parties on regulation, audit, inspection, local government spending and other subjects relative to the Commission's work.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 640W, on the Audit Commission: public relations, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* analysis and overview of the local election results and *(b)* public affairs strategy that was produced for the Audit Commission by Connect Public Affairs. [304715]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 7 December 2009:*

*Parliamentary Question: to ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 1 December 2009, Official Report, column 640W, on Audit Commission: public relations, if he will place in the Library a copy of the (a) analysis and overview of the local election results and (b) public affairs strategy that was produced for the Audit Commission by Connect Public Affairs.*

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

Copies of the following documents produced by Connect Public Affairs for the Audit Commission have been placed in the library:

- Local election analysis
- Public affairs strategy

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 640W, on the Audit Commission: public relations, which key prospective parliamentary candidates were identified by Connect Public Affairs for the Audit Commission; and what action the Audit Commission or Connect took in relation to those individuals after their identification. [304716]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 7 December 2009:*

*Parliamentary Question: with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 1 December 2009, Official Report, column 640W, on Audit Commission: public relations, which key prospective parliamentary candidates were identified by Connect Public Affairs for the Audit Commission; and what action the Audit Commission or Connect took in relation to those individuals after their identification.*

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission asked Connect Public Affairs to produce a list and analysis of the known interests of prospective parliamentary candidates of all parties.

Candidates are an important group of users of the rich local detail contained in Comprehensive Area Assessment. The Audit Commission is using this work to disseminate details of area assessments to those who have declared they are standing at the next general election.

The Audit Commission has not asked Connect Public Affairs to lobby or communicate with prospective parliamentary candidates on its behalf. Connect was asked to carry out research, for example providing contact details, to ensure the Commission's data records were as accurate as possible.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 640W, on the Audit Commission: public relations, what the purpose was of the public affairs work entitled CPA Conservative Shadow Cabinet; and what the work entailed. [304717]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 7 December 2009:*

*Parliamentary Question: with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 1 December 2009, Official Report, column 640W, on Audit Commission: public relations, what the purpose was of the public affairs work entitled CPA Conservative Shadow Cabinet; and what the work entailed.*

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

Ministers, their shadows, MPs and elected members in local government are among the important users of the information and place analysis contained in the new Comprehensive Area Assessment. To identify them and plan effective communications to them, the Audit Commission asked Connect Public Affairs to use its expert knowledge to draw up a 'perceptions and influence map'.

It lists those who are likely to take an interest in Comprehensive Area Assessment and those to whom further information might be of use and of interest, so allowing the Audit Commission to target its spending on dissemination of reports, assessments and analyses more effectively.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 640W, on the Audit Commission: public relations, if he will make an assessment of the compliance of the Audit Commission's hiring of a public affairs firm to identify key prospective parliamentary candidates with the Cabinet Office's Propriety Guidance rules in respect of use of public relations consultancies or agencies. [304718]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Cabinet Office's Propriety Guidance does not apply to non-civil servants, so the Audit Commission is not required to comply with it.

## Council Tax

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will increase the number of council tax bands. [304216]

**Barbara Follett:** The Government have no plans to increase the number of council tax bands.

## Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301849]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department's website received the following page hits and visitors in 2008-9:

Page hits: 28,372,910

Visitors: 3,334,213.

## Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303951]

**Barbara Follett:** Over the last 12 months the Department for Communities and Local Government has issued 172 building passes to contractors and/or consultants working in Eland House. The Department does not separately distinguish passes issued to general contractors or consultants.

## EU Law

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* statutory instruments and *(b)* other regulations his Department has brought forward to meet obligations arising from EU law in the 2005 Parliament. [304174]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department has made the following statutory instruments to meet obligations arising from EU law in this Parliament.

The Architects (Recognition of European Qualifications etc. and Saving and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1331).

The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 (amended by S.I. 2007/991, 1669 and 3302, S.I. 2008/647, 2363 and S.I. 2009/1900).

The Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats (Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging) (England and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/1067).

The European Regional Development Fund (East of England Operational Programme) (Implementation) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/3624).

The European Regional Development Fund (East Midlands Operational Programme) (Implementation) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/3625).

The European Regional Development Fund (London Operational Programme) (Implementation) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/1342).

The European Regional Development Fund (North East Operational Programme) (Implementation) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/3621).

The European Regional Development Fund (North West Operational Programme) (Implementation) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/3622).

The European Regional Development Fund (South East Operational Programme) (Implementation) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/3620).

The European Regional Development Fund (South West Operational Programmes) (Implementation) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/3623).

The European Regional Development Fund (West Midlands Operational Programme) (Implementation) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/3618).

The European Regional Development Fund (Yorkshire and the Humber Operational Programme) (Implementation) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/3619).

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/2263).

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/3295).

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/2093).

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Mineral Permissions and Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1556).

The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/1901).

## Government Office for London

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what events the Government Office for London has hosted in each of the last five years; and what the cost was of hosting each such event. [303638]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** A list of events hosted or co-hosted by the Government Office for London in 2009-10 and 2008-09, including any costs occurred by the Office, is set out in the following table. Information relating to events held in preceding years is no longer held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| | *Cost to the Government Office for London (£)* |
|---|---|
| *Events in 2009-10* | |
| 'Together We Can Aim Higher' — youth opportunity funding conference (in association with DCSF) | 11,200 |
| Future Jobs Fund: Potential Bidders Event | 713 |
| DCSF 2-Year-Old Child Programme Knowledge Sharing Seminars | 3,956 |
| Residential Burglary Seminar for London Local Authorities | 39 |
| Resilience Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee Seminar | 18 |
| Early Years Capital Roadshow — highlighting DCSF programmes | 182 |
| New Draft Safeguarding Statutory Guidance Seminar | 1,200 |
| Sustainable Schools Event for London Boroughs | 485 |
| Childcare Take-up and LAAs Seminar | 3,687 |
| Vigilance national funding: Bidding Event | 96 |
| Future Jobs Fund: Successful Bidders Event | 232 |
| Future Jobs Fund: Successful Bidders Event | 134 |
| Climate Change Projection in Practice Workshops (in association with DEFRA, Regional Climate Change Partnership, UKCIP) | 0 |
| 'Transforming Outcomes for Children and Young People Conference' (in association with London VCS, CYP Network, Partnership for Young London & Children England) | 4,000 |
| London Young Mayors Conference (in association with 11 Million listening tour) | 0 |
| Ofsted Serious Case Review Guidance Consultation Seminar | 1,555 |
| Health of Looked After Children — emerging best practice report launch | 12,000 |
| Parenting Outcomes Framework Launch | 4,909 |
| Prevent in London DVD Launch | 5,575 |
| DCSF 3/4 Year-old Child Programme Funding Seminar | 1,796 |
| Sustainable Schools Event for Headteachers | 320 |
| Childcare Sufficiency Seminars | 345 |
| Climate Change Mitigation Event for Local Authorities (in association with Energy Saving Trust and London Councils) | 750 |
| GOL London Reception 2009 | 4,783 |
| London Safeguarding Children Conference (in association with London Councils) | 5,000 |
| Total | 62,975 |
| *Events in 2008-09* | |
| Getting Started with Sustainable Food Conference | 2,000 |
| Cohesion & Prevent Group Meeting | 201 |
| The London European Social Fund Story (in association with the LDA) | 7,491 |
| Public Service Agreement 23 & 25: Celebrating the Sign Off of LAAs (in association with the Home Office) | 309 |
| Celebrations at London's Successes: analysis of policing and community safety | 341 |
| Climate Change Adaptation Seminar (in association with Defra, Regional Climate Change Partnership and UKCIP) | 0 |
| Utilities Awareness Workshop (in association with London Fire Brigade and utility providers) | 1,346 |
| Climate change mitigation event for local authorities (in association with Energy Saving Trust, London Councils and Carbon Trust) | 0 |
| GOL London Reception 2008 | 4,863 |
| Sustainable Schools Event — London Sustainable Schools Forum | 4,000 |
| International Domestic Violence Conference (in association with LB Croydon) | 4,000 |
| Sustainable Schools Event for Head teacher's | 350 |
| Sustainable Schools Event — Learning Seminar for Schools | 1,075 |
| "What is Community Cohesion?" film launch | 4,428 |

| | Cost to the Government Office for London (£) |
|---|---|
| Sustainable Schools Event - Learning Seminar for Schools | 2,130 |
| Climate change flooding event for local authorities (in association with the Environment Agency) | 0 |
| Prevent Conference | 36,710 |
| London Prevent Network - promote good practice, training and peer support seminar | 240 |
| Sustainable Schools Event - London Sustainable Schools Forum | 2,654 |
| Climate change adaptation event for local authorities (in association with Defra) | 0 |
| Total | 72,130 |

### Homes and Communities Agency: Harlow

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 71W, on the Home and Communities Agency, how much the Homes and Communities Agency's predecessor bodies spent on acquiring the freehold to the Gateway site in Harlow; how much was spent on security for the site; and on what date the freehold was *(a)* bought by that predecessor body and *(b)* sold. [302952]

**John Healey:** It is not possible to provide a precise figure or date for the completion of the Gateway site. It was part of a larger acquisition carried out prior to 1959, which was itself part of the land assembly to support the creation of Harlow New Town. To determine the precise date and cost of the acquisition of the freehold of this site would represent a disproportionate cost.

The Gateway site was disposed of in 2004 for the figure given in my previous answer. The freehold is being transferred on a plot by plot basis as units are completed. It has therefore been transferred on some of the land but not all.

Nothing was spent by either the HCA or its predecessor bodies on security for the site.

### Leasehold Valuation Tribunal

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many cases relating to the level of fees charged by private sheltered housing companies have been brought before the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal in 2009 to date. [302997]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Leasehold Valuation tribunals have so far dealt with 18 cases in 2009 concerning the service charges of private sheltered housing companies.

### Lichfield District Council: Finance

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by Lichfield district council in each of the last four financial years; and what revenue the authority received from *(a)* Government grants, *(b)* council tax, *(c)* non-domestic rates, *(d)* the sale of assets and *(e)* other sources in each of those years. [304160]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested on expenditure and receipts is shown as follows.

*Lichfield district council*

£000

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Revenue expenditure | 12,353 | 12,603 | 12,587 | 13,656 |
| *financed by* | | | | |
| Government grants | 3,700 | 2,713 | 2,970 | 2,197 |
| Redistributed non-domestic rates | 2,711 | 4,853 | 5,009 | 5,241 |
| Council tax | 5,413 | 5,817 | 6,221 | 6,431 |
| Other | 530 | -780 | -1,612 | -213 |
| | | | | |
| Capital expenditure | 5,187 | 4,253 | 7,411 | 4,052 |
| *financed by* | | | | |
| Central Government grants | 709 | 338 | 459 | 336 |
| Use of capital receipts | 2,299 | 2,993 | 4,046 | 2,381 |
| Other | 2,179 | 922 | 2,906 | 1,335 |
| Capital receipts in year | 857 | 1,100 | 2,613 | 186 |

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue and Capital Outturn returns

Revenue expenditure figures are produced on a non Financial Reporting Standard 17 (FRS17) basis.

Government grants within revenue expenditure are defined here as the sum of revenue support grant, area based grant and specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF) i.e. revenue grants paid for authorities' core services.

"Other" within revenue expenditure financing includes: transfers and adjustments; appropriations to/from revenue reserves; collection fund surpluses/deficits; and community charge amounts transferred to/from collection fund.

Local authority council tax requirement is the council tax available to finance revenue expenditure, not council tax collected.

Revenue figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services but is passed to a third party e.g. rent allowances and rebates), funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Comparisons across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

"Other" within capital expenditure financing includes grants and contributions from outside government (e.g. private developers, national lottery), revenue financing and borrowing.

### Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to implement Part 6 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. [301758]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Our response, published on 27 October 2009, to the consultation paper 'The making and enforcement of byelaws' made clear our intention to implement the new regime for the making and enforcement of byelaws, which we are minded to do early in the new year.

### Local Government Finance

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what percentage of the external finance in each local authority in England was generated from *(a)* fees and charges, *(b)* council tax and *(c)* central Government funding in (i) 1992, (ii) 1997 and (iii) 2007; [302117]

(2) if he will rank each English London local authority in order of the percentage of total income generated from council tax in 2008-09. [302118]

**Barbara Follett:** I have today placed in the Library of the House a table that gives, by each local authority in England, the percentage of income generated from *(a)* fees and charges, *(b)* council tax and *(c)* central Government funding in 2007-08.

Estimates for 1992-93 and 1997-98 are not available as they could be made only at disproportionate cost.

Information on some of the elements of total income required to produce estimates for 2008-09 has not yet been compiled.

### Local Government: ICT

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will commission a report on the role of Liverpool Direct Ltd. in Liverpool city council's ICT strategy; and if he will make a statement. [302767]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is a matter for Liverpool city council. Local authorities have a duty to secure continuous improvement in the way in which they exercise their functions, having regard to a combination of economy, effectiveness and efficiency.

### Local Government: Procurement

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department publishes on local authority commissioning of goods and services; how many local authorities have been required under that guidance to tender for services being conducted in house, or by existing providers in the last 12 months. [303356]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Guidance on securing positive outcomes and best value through commissioning was set out in paragraphs 6.4 to 6.17 of "Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities: Statutory Guidance" (Communities and Local Government, 9 July 2008). The guidance is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongsafeprosperous

Information on how many authorities have tendered for services in the last 12 months is not held centrally.

### Non-Domestic Rates

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 312-13W, on non-domestic rates, what the estimated net collectable debt in respect of non-domestic rates was for each local authority in the *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 tax year. [304232]

**Barbara Follett:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 312-13W and in particular column 2 of the table that was placed in the Library of the House.

### Parking: Fees and Charges

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* the total reserve in its Parking Places Revenue Account and *(b)* the annual income from parking charges was of each local authority in each of the last five years. [302116]

**Barbara Follett:** I have today placed in the Library of the House a table that gives, by each local authority in England, the annual revenue raised by local authorities from all parking charges in each year from 2005-06 to 2008-09.

Information about local authorities' Parking Places Revenue Account is not collected centrally.

### Planning Permission: Appeals

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidelines his Department has issued to planning inspectors in respect of planning appeals. [304724]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department has not recently issued any guidelines specifically to planning inspectors. In determining cases, planning inspectors must take account, where relevant, of Planning Policy statements and any associated material such as circulars and guidance issued by my Department. All such material is in the public domain.

### Sheltered Housing

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the benefits to residents of sheltered accommodation of the provision of services by wardens who work a 34-hour week; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects on such residents of changes in the working patterns of such wardens. [303811]

**Barbara Follett:** There has been no central assessment of the benefits to residents of having warden services within sheltered accommodation. When reviewing services local authorities should take account of residents views on the services being provided and the benefits received. We expect every service user to have a full risk and needs assessment undertaken and an appropriate support plan put in place. It is a local decision as to how to best meet the needs identified.

### Social Rented Housing: Equality

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many employment tribunal claims have been brought against *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords in each of the last five years; [304537]

(2) how many cases have been brought against *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords in respect of alleged breaches of equalities legislation in each of the last five years; [304535]

(3) how many legal cases have been brought in respect of racial discrimination allegations against *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords in each of the last five years. [304536]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Social Rented Housing: Regulation

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of local authority regulation of registered social landlords; what estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities of such regulation in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [304522]

**John Healey:** Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in England are regulated by the Tenant Services Authority (TSA), the independent social housing regulator. Local authorities are not responsible for regulating RSLs.

### Tenant Services Agency

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of *(a)* setting up and *(b)* operating for the first year the (i) Tenant Services Agency and (ii) the Homes and Communities Agency. [304521]

**John Healey:** The set up costs of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and Tenant Services Authority (TSA) are set out in the Housing and Regeneration Bill-Impact Assessment, a copy of which is in the House Library

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/housingregenactimpactassess

The running costs for both the HCA and the TSA can be found in the published financial statements for 2008-09.

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/annual-report-2009.htm

and

http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/server/show/ConWebDoc.19672

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Asylum

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding asylum appeals there were on 1 November 2009. [301283]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

The number of outstanding asylum appeals as of 1 November 2009 is as follows:

| | *Number of cases* |
|---|---|
| Immigration Judge[1] | 3,282 |
| High Court Review (Filter) Applications[2] | 271 |
| Reconsiderations[3] | 1,304 |
| Total Asylum Appeal cases outstanding | 4,857 |

[1] Initial appeal of Home Office decision.
[2] The application to review whether a reconsideration of the case is appropriate because of an error of law
[3] Reconsideration of case because of an error of law.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which countries children seeking asylum aged *(a)* 17, *(b)* 12 to 16, *(c)* five to 11 and *(d)* under five years old have been deported in each year since 1997. [302884]

**Alan Johnson:** The requested information is not available prior to 2004; however, the following table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures of children asylum cases under the age of 18, including dependants, from the United Kingdom between 2004 and 2008, by age group and country of destination.

The figures provided include children in family groups. Where they have been found by the UK Border Agency and the independent courts to have no basis of stay in the UK they are expected to leave the country or face an enforced removal. Wherever possible they are given the opportunity to make a voluntary departure. The UK Border Agency only consider returning an unaccompanied child with no legal right to remain in the UK to their country of origin if safe and adequate reception arrangements are in place.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

*Removals and voluntary departures[1] [2] of children asylum cases[3], by age group and type, 2004 to 2008*

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | *Number of departures[4]*<br>2008[5] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures[6] [7] | 1,050 | 1,405 | 1,035 | 570 | 505 |
| *of which:* under 5 years | 435 | 500 | 375 | 220 | 175 |
| 5 to 11 years | 295 | 435 | 355 | 205 | 180 |
| 12 to 16 years | 205 | 330 | 230 | 115 | 120 |
| 17 years | 115 | 140 | 80 | 30 | 25 |
| | | | | | |
| Assisted voluntary returns[8] | 295 | 235 | 580 | 365 | 160 |
| *of which:* under 5 years | 120 | 110 | 280 | 145 | 70 |
| 5 to 11 years | 100 | 65 | 190 | 95 | 50 |

*Removals and voluntary departures[1,4] of children asylum cases[2], by age group and type, 2004 to 2008*

| | 2004 | 2005[6] | 2006 | 2007[7] | 2008[5] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | *Number of departures[3]* |
| 12 to 16 years | 60 | 40 | 80 | 50 | 30 |
| 17 years | 20 | 20 | 30 | 15 | 10 |
| | | | | | |
| Other voluntary departures[9] | n/a | * | 30 | 35 | 60 |
| *of which:* under 5 years | n/a | * | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| 5 to 11 years | | * | 5 | 15 | 20 |
| 12 to 16 years | n/a | * | 5 | 10 | 20 |
| 17 years | n/a | * | 5 | 5 | 15 |
| | | | | | |
| Total removals and voluntary departures | 1,345 | 1,635 | 1,645 | 905 | 725 |
| *of which:* under 5 years | 555 | 610 | 660 | 370 | 235 |
| 5 to 11 years | 395 | 500 | 555 | 270 | 260 |
| 12 to 16 years | 265 | 370 | 320 | 175 | 170 |
| 17 years | 135 | 155 | 110 | 90 | 60 |

n/a = not applicable

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Figures include dependants.

[3] This figure may overstate because some applicants aged 18 or over may claim to be younger on their date of departure from the UK.

[4] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[5] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

[6] Due to a reclassification of removal categories, figures include asylum removals which have been performed by enforcement officers using port powers of removal and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

[7] Since October 2006, figures include persons leaving under facilitated return schemes.

[8] Persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. May include some cases leaving under the assisted voluntary return for irregular migrants programme and some cases where enforcement action had been initiated.

[9] Since January 2005, persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children from each country of origin aged *(a)* 17, *(b)* 12 to 16, *(c)* five to 11 and *(d)* under five years old have been refused asylum in each year since 1997. [302885]

**Alan Johnson:** Information on asylum refusals by age group and country of origin is not collated.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2008 and the latest statistics for Q3 2009 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children from each country of origin aged *(a)* 17, *(b)* 12 to 16, *(c)* five to 11 and *(d)* under five years old have claimed asylum in each year since 1997. [302886]

**Alan Johnson:** Information on asylum applications from principal applicants (since 2001) and dependants (since 2002) is only available by the published age categories at time of application and nationality. Information prior to these dates is not available.

The figures are available from the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom prior to 2008 and the supplementary tables of the Control of Immigration Bulletin 2008 for the year of 2008. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

## Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of grievous and actual bodily harm were recorded by police in *(a)* England and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire in each of the last 10 years. [303643]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Home Office does not hold data for the constituency area North East Cambridgeshire, as this does not correspond with a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership or Cambridgeshire Police Basic Command Unit.

Data for grievous bodily harm (GBH) and actual bodily harm (ABH) offences for England for 1999-2000 to 2008-09 are given in Table A.

There was a major change in police recorded crime recording in 2002 that means that figures from 2002-03 are not comparable with figures prior to this year.

The introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002 brought in a more victim-focused reporting system, where victim accounts had to be accepted unless there was credible evidence to the contrary. In its first year, this is estimated to have artificially increased recording of violence against the person by 23 per cent. (it is also thought to have increased figures in the following year as the standard bedded in but precise estimates of this effect are not available).

From 1 April 2008 there were also changes in offence classification, introducing the new category of GBH without intent, and a clarification in the counting rules for GBH with intent which meant that in some forces there was a significant shift in recording away from ABH to GBH with intent. This means figures for 2008-09 are not comparable with those for earlier years.

*Table A: Recorded crime for grievous bodily harm (GBH) and actual bodily harm (ABH) offences in England, 1999-2000 to 2008-09*

| | Offence | | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GBH | 5 | More serious wounding or other act endangering life | 13,835 | 14,452 | 15,202 | 16,113 | 17,706 | 17,801 | 17,065 | 15,667 | 13,596 | — |
| | 5A | Inflicting grievous bodily hard (GBH) with intent | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 21,253 |
| | 8F | Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 16,170 |
| | 8H | Racially or religiously aggravated inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 376 |
| ABH | 8A | Less serious wounding | 189,441 | 185,312 | 198,418 | 320,157 | 401,917 | 458,372 | 486,052 | 454,638 | 406,251 | — |
| | 8D | Racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding | 2,618 | 3,112 | 3,360 | 4,197 | 4,685 | 5,134 | 5,709 | 5,405 | 4,614 | — |
| | 8G | Actually bodily harm and other injury | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 351,550 |
| | 8J | Racially or religiously aggravated actual bodily harm and other injury | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3,759 |
| *Total GBH and ABH* | | | 205,894 | 202,876 | 216,980 | 340,467 | 424,308 | 481,307 | 508,826 | 475,710 | 424,461 | 393,108 |

Notes:

1. There was a major change in police recorded crime recording in 2002 that means that figures from 2002-03 are not comparable with figures prior to this year. The introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002 brought in a more victim-focused reporting system, where victim accounts had to be accepted unless there was credible evidence to the contrary.

2. Offence classifications 5A, 5B and 5C were introduced from 1 April 2008 and replace classification 5. Classification 5A was influenced by a clarification in recording rules that had the effect of significantly increasing levels of recording in some forces. Figures for 2008-09 for classification 5A should be viewed as provisional as a current inspection by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary may give rise to further revisions from forces. Classification 5A also includes some other offences of endangering life as well as GBH with intent, though GBH with intent is the major part of this category.

3. Offence classifications 8F, 8G, 8H, 8J and 8K were introduced from 1 April 2008 and had previously been recorded as part of classifications 8A or 8D.

## Departmental Legislation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [303253]

**Alan Johnson:** The following new offences have been created since 1 May 2008:

*Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008*

Failure to comply with a prohibition etc. in a violent offender order (section 113(1))

Failure to comply with the notification requirements of a violent offender order (section 113(2))

Notifying false information in purported compliance with a violent offender order (section 113(3))

Remaining on or entering premises in contravention of a closure notice (section 118 and Schedule 20)

Obstructing a person enforcing a closure notice or closure order etc. (section 11D(2))

*Policing And Crime Act 2009*

Paying for sexual services of a prostitute subjected to force etc. (section 14)

Paying for sexual services of a prostitute subjected to force etc. (section 15)

Amendment to offence of loitering etc. for purposes of prostitution (section 16)

Soliciting a person for purpose of obtaining sexual services (section 19)

Soliciting a person for purpose of obtaining sexual services (section 20)

Remaining on or entering premises in contravention of a closure notice (section 21 and Schedule 2)

Remaining on or entering premises in contravention of a closure order (section 21 and Schedule 2)

Obstructing a person enforcing a closure notice or closure order etc. (section 21 and Schedule 2)

Person under 18: persistently possessing alcohol in a public place (section 30)

Prohibition on importation of offensive weapons (section 102)

*Borders, Citizenship And Immigration Act 2009*

Disclosure of personal customs information to certain persons (section 18(1))

Disclosure of personal customs revenue information (section 18 (1))

Disclosure of material information without appropriate consent (section 18(1))

*Counter-Terrorism Act 2008*

Offence of obstruction (section 2)

Offences relating to notification (section 54)

Offences relating to information about members of armed forces etc. (section 76)

Offences relating to breaches of a foreign travel restriction order (paragraph 15 of Schedule 5)

Offences relating to HMT's provisions on terrorist financing and money laundering (paragraph 30 and 31 of Schedule 7)

The following offences have been abolished since 1 May 2008:

*Policing And Crime Act 2009*

Kerb-crawling (section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 1985)

Persistent soliciting (section 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 1985)

### Deportation

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been deported from the UK in the last five years. [300920]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons who were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Statistics on removals and voluntary departures, by type, in the last 10 years are provided in table 3.1 of the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2008 bulletin at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1409.pdf

Statistics for the first two quarters of 2009 are provided in table 7a/b/c of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical summary, April to June 2009 at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq209.pdf

Figures for the third quarter of 2009 will be published on 26 November 2009.

### DNA: Databases

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the written ministerial statement of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 25-28WS, on DNA and fingerprint retention, whether all those arrested and not charged under counter-terrorism legislation will have their DNA retained beyond the six-year limit. [301934]

**Mr. Hanson:** DNA profiles and fingerprints taken from adults detained under section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 or Schedule 7 to that Act will only be retained beyond six years if the relevant chief officer of police determines that it is necessary to do so for national security purposes.

All cases will be reviewed on a rolling two year basis after the six year timeframe and the material will be destroyed when it is no longer necessary to retain it for those purposes.

### Entry Clearances

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* leave to remain, *(b)* indefinite leave to remain and *(c)* student visa (tier four) applications have been refused in the last five years. [300921]

**Mr. Woolas:** Statistics on leave to remain and indefinite leave to remain (settlement) applications refused for the last five complete years, 2004-08, are provided in the following table.

Provisional calendar year totals for 2009 are due to be published in February 2010. The leave to remain refusals total for 2009 will include in-country applications from non-EEA students that have been considered and refused under tier 4 of the points-based system from 31 March 2009.

Provisional leave to remain and indefinite leave to remain quarterly data for the first three quarters of 2009 were published on 26 November in the "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom—Third Quarter 2009". Copies are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

*Refusals of an extension of leave to remain[1, 2] and refusals of settlement in the United Kingdom, excluding EEA[3, 4] and Swiss nationals, 2004-08[5]*

*Number of refusals*

| | 2004[6] | 2005 | 2006 | 2007[7] | 2008[8] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Main applicants* | | | | | |
| Refusals of an extension | 24,730 | 27,175 | 20,175 | 23,555 | 21,120 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| Students | 6,765 | 9,535 | 7,875 | 9,040 | 5,365 |
| Refusals of settlement | 6,525 | 6,260 | 8,365 | 11,875 | 7,420 |
| Total main applicant refusals | 31,250 | 33,435 | 28,540 | 35,435 | 28,540 |

*Refusals of an extension of leave to remain[1, 2] and refusals of settlement in the United Kingdom, excluding EEA[3, 4] and Swiss nationals, 2004-08[5]*

| | | | | | *Number of refusals* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004[3]* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007[4]* | *2008[6]* |
| *Dependants* | | | | | |
| Refusals of an extension | 2,885 | 4,130 | 3,110 | 4,500 | 5,165 |
| *Of which* | | | | | |
| Students | 950 | 1,405 | 1,355 | 1,895 | 1,395 |
| Refusals of settlement | 810 | 750 | 1,445 | 1,605 | 1,925 |
| Total dependant refusals | 3,695 | 4,875 | 4,555 | 6,105 | 7,090 |

[1] Excludes asylum-related decisions and withdrawn applications.

[2] Includes reconsideration cases and the outcome of appeals.

[3] Includes nationals of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May 2004, but excludes them from this date.

[4] Since 2007, excludes Bulgaria and Romania who acceded to the EU on 1 January 2007.

[5] Figures rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[6] Provisional figures.

## Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will assess the financial effect on language schools teaching English as a foreign language of proposed reforms to Tier 4 of the points-based system. [302084]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Prime Minister announced on 17 November 2009 that a review of tier 4, the student tier of the points based system, would be conducted by a joint team from the UK Border Agency and the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. The review team have been asked to assess whether the current tier 4 policy strikes the appropriate balance between facilitating access of genuine students to education in the UK and preventing abuse by economic migrants.

The review is looking at evidence gathered from the early stages of tier 4, which was launched in March this year, to look at the case for or against any policy changes. The review will consider all of the available data and evidence, including the potential financial impact of the proposals on the different parts of the education sector such as the English language sector.

## Entry Clearances: Skilled Workers

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* work permits with a length of more than 12 months and *(b)* highly skilled migrant programme permits were issued in 2008-09. [302155]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The UK Border Agency issued 60,305 work permits with a length of 12 months or more and 10,775 highly skilled migrant programme permits in the financial year 2008-09.

Figures are rounded to nearest five.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

## Extremism Unit: Finance

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department's Extremism Unit spent under each budget heading in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [301038]

**Mr. Hanson:** Extremism may take many forms. As regards funding for OSCT Prevent this was spent as follows:

| | | *£million* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Actual admin. spend* | *Actual programme spend* |
| 2007-08 | 0.92 | 1.71 |
| 2008-09 | 2.30 | 27.02 |

## Fixed Penalties

**Nick Ainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued to police forces on the publication of information on the number of fixed penalty notices issued in respect of offences committed upon a particular part of the highway; and if he will make a statement. [303532]

**Mr. Hanson:** Decisions on the release of any information held by the police is a matter for individual chief officers of police.

**Nick Ainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will ask South Wales Police Force to review its decision on publication of the number of fixed penalty notices issued for speeding in the 50mph limit area on the approach to the Severn Bridge toll booths on the M4. [303533]

**Mr. Hanson:** Decisions on the release of any information held by the police is a matter for individual chief officers of police.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, if the requester is not satisfied with the response that they have received from a police force, they have two options which they can follow:

(a) ask the force to conduct an internal review of their decision and if they remain dissatisfied then

(b) they should take the matter to the Information Commissioner.

## Foreign Nationals: Convictions

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals who have been convicted in this country in each of the last five years were identified by a Government department or agency as having a criminal record in another country or countries *(a)* on entry into the UK and *(b)* on release from custody. [303323]

**Mr. Woolas:** It is not possible to obtain the requested information.

In the case of EU nationals there is a mechanism for the exchange of conviction information, operated under 2009 Framework Decision (previously conviction information was transferred under the Council of Europe arrangements, 1959).

In the case of non-European countries there are arrangements via Interpol, which concentrate on more serious offences.

### Identity Cards

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 946W, on identity cards, what proportion of the 1,000 applications received has come from *(a)* Identity and Passport Service and the Home Department staff and *(b)* airport operator staff at Manchester and London City airports. [303782]

**Alan Johnson:** Since 20 October, and up to and including 30 November, 1,589 applicants have been enrolled or have made an enrolment appointment for an identity card. The information held on the National Identity Register does not include the occupation of an individual.

### Identity Cards: Databases

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations were accredited under the Identity Cards Act 2006 to access data on the National Identity Register on 1 October 2009. [303816]

**Meg Hillier:** No organisation will have access to the information held on the National Identity Register. However, the Identity Cards Act 2006 does allow for information to be provided from the register in prescribed circumstances. The register was not in operation on 1 October 2009, and powers to provide information were not commenced until 20 October 2009.

### Identity Cards: Greater Manchester

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the personal information of British citizens applying for identity cards in Greater Manchester from 30 November will be stored on the National Identity Register. [303791]

**Alan Johnson:** British citizens resident or working in Greater Manchester who apply for an identity card will have their identity information including biometrics stored on the National Identity Register. The register will hold the same sort of personal information as is already held for the issue of passports.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on informing people in Greater Manchester that they may apply for identity cards from 30 November 2009. [303792]

**Alan Johnson:** The Identity and Passport Service has spent £41,195 to date to buy advertising space that utilises regional press and online search to inform people who live or work in Greater Manchester that they may apply for Identity Cards from 30 November 2009.

### Immigration

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children from each country of origin aged *(a)* 17, *(b)* 12 to 16, *(c)* five to 11 and *(d)* under five years old have been detained under immigration rules in each of the last 12 years. [302881]

**Alan Johnson:** The requested information is not available; however, in August 2009 the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical publication was expanded to include information on persons entering detention, total number of persons leaving detention and the number of families with children held in detention. This information is available split by age (to separately identify children), and will be published quarterly in the future; however data for earlier years will remain unavailable.

Information on the number of children under the age of 18 entering detention solely under Immigration Act powers in Q1-Q3 2009 by age and country of nationality is available in:

*Q1 and Q2 2009*

Table 8a and 8b of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq209.pdf.

Tables G and H of the supplementary tables

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq209supp.xls

*Q3 2009*

Table 9 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq309.pdf.

Table H of the supplementary tables

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq309supp.xls.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

### Immigration Controls: Foreign Workers

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effects changes in the labour market test for obtaining a work permit have had on the number of domestic workers *(a)* applying for and *(b)* obtaining jobs in the UK. [301223]

**Mr. Woolas:** The flexibility of the points-based system allows us to support UK workers and at the same time meet the recruitment needs of businesses and support the economy. Since April this year, the RLMT has been strengthened to include a requirement to advertise skilled jobs in Jobcentre Plus, so that resident workers have a single source—their local job centre—to access all skilled vacancies. This strengthening of the resident labour market test was introduced to better support resident workers looking for skilled jobs. I announced on 24 November that, on the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendation the test would be further strengthened by increasing from two weeks to four weeks the minimum period that jobs must be advertised in order to satisfy the test. No formal assessment of the impact of the changes has yet been undertaken.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he intends to reply to the letter of 9 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Waqas Ur Rashid; [303408]

(2) when he intends to reply to the letter of 5 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton with regard to Mr. Rara Ali Raza. [303415]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote my right hon. Friend on 30 November 2009.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 5 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Omer Farooq and Hassan Akhtar. [304031]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 2 December 2009.

**Janet Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State expects to provide a substantive reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Rossendale and Darwen of 16 November 2009 sent on behalf of her constituent Miss Ashley Redmayne. [304339]

**Mr. Hanson:** I wrote to my hon. Friend on 25 November 2009.

### National Policing Improvement Agency

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for the future *(a)* governance and *(b)* funding of the National Policing Improvement Agency; and if he will make a statement. [303902]

**Mr. Hanson:** The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is an executive non-departmental public body (ENDPB) of the Home Office created under the Police and Justice Act 2006. Its governance arrangements are set out in legislation under Schedule 1 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and there are no plans to change these arrangements.

Funding for the NPIA is allocated on an annual basis and funding allocations have not yet been set for 2010-11 and beyond.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department allocated to the National Policing Improvement Agency in each of the last five years; what agreements are in place between his Department and that agency in relation to the use of such funding; under what statutory powers such funding was allocated; and if he will make a statement. [303903]

**Mr. Hanson:** The funding allocated to the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) since it was established in April 2007 is shown in the following table.

The NPIA is subject to the principles of regularity, propriety and value for money that applies to all Government Departments and other public bodies in the management of public money and must observe the Treasury guidance 'Managing Public Money'. A Financial Memorandum between the Home Office and NPIA is in place and the Management Statement (published on the NPIA website) sets out in greater detail the financial framework within which NPIA is required to operate. Annual Accounts are laid before Parliament each year. The Chief Executive of the NPIA is the Accounting Officer.

The Secretary of State has statutory authority to make payments to the NPIA under Schedule 1, part 4 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

*Home Office funding delegated to the National Policing Improvement Agency since vesting on April 2007[1]*

| | | | *(£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Resource* | *Capital* | *Total* |
| 2007-08 | 412.3 | 185.4 | 597.7 |
| 2008-09 | 396.3 | 172.5 | 568.8 |
| 2009-10 | 397.6 | 153.8 | 551.4 |

### Police

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will bring forward proposals for a protocol for police officers dealing with people with learning difficulties; [303983]

(2) what training police forces give to police officers on dealing with people with learning difficulties. [303988]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 3 December 2009]*: The Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP) and Police Community Support Officer learning programme contain modules relating to dealing with individuals with learning difficulties. A list of these modules is given in table 1.

Police training for all officers and staff is being reviewed to ensure that mental ill health and learning difficulties are covered appropriately. The National Policing Improvement Agency has developed guidance on the 'Police Response to People with Mental Ill Health and Learning Disabilities' on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

It has been developed in response to the recommendations of Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system (April 2009).

A new Mental Ill Health Learning Programme will take a more focused and detailed approach in looking at mental ill health and learning disabilities, identifying the difference between the two and being able to identify symptoms, indicators and responses to a range of disabilities in a wide variety of policing situations. A list of topics and outcomes is given in table 2. Mind, Mencap and the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health have been consulted throughout the development of this learning programme.

The contents of table 2 only identify where a specific focus has been drawn to persons with a disability or learning difficulties. There is a strong thread throughout IPLDP promoting equality and dealing with people in a fair and ethical manner by recognising and responding to their needs in respect of race and diversity, as set out in the Disability Discrimination Act and the Human Rights Act.

An e-learning module is being developed as part of the Mental Ill Health Learning Programme to support the new guidance. The e-learning module, which is designed for all public-facing officers, will be part of initial training and will be available to all Home Office police forces.

The overarching intention of the guidance, practice advice and training is to reduce the risk of harm to the individual, to members of the community and to policing personnel.

*Table 1: Modules currently included in the IPLDP and Police Community Support Officer Learning Programme*

| *Name of module* | *Description* |
|---|---|
| Assessing the needs of individuals and provide advice and support | Identifying vulnerable witnesses (behavioural characteristics and physical characteristics), who may be vulnerable and why. It also looks at communicating with such individuals, special measures provided for vulnerable witnesses including the identification of such needs on the appropriate documentation in file completion. There is also an appendix of common conditions including those that could affect communication, with a summary of that condition. |
| Using police actions in a fair and justified way | The student notes cover communication skills and highlights some conditions that could affect communication. |
| Interviewing victims and witnesses | Includes a section on vulnerable witnesses/victims and specifically highlights the potential for communication difficulties and misunderstandings arising. |
| Interviewing suspects | Dealing with vulnerable people, whether they are a victim, witness or suspect and the need to treat vulnerable people with particular consideration at all times. It looks at whether individuals are fit to be interviewed, and mental health issues, physical disorder, health and behaviour are discussed. It also looks at communication difficulties, the need for appropriate adults in certain situations and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1985 code of practice in relation to interviewing those who may have a learning difficulty or a mental health issue. |
| Prepare and present case information, present evidence and finalise investigations | Includes a section on witnesses with learning difficulties and deals with how witnesses with learning difficulties may find the criminal justice process especially stressful, and on occasion, traumatic. High stress reduces the person's ability to participate and respond to questioning, or effectively recall events in order to assist the fact finding process of the criminal justice system. The student notes associated with this module look at pre-trial support to aid this process. |
| Victims and witnesses | This looks at the code of practice for the victims of crime and specifically deals with vulnerable and intimidated witnesses. |
| Strategies for dealing with persons suffering from mental disorder | This module specifically covers learning in relation to the legal term of learning disabilities' within the Mental Health Act 1983. It also covers identifying people with learning difficulties and court appearances for people with learning difficulties. |
| Mental health | The module includes a chapter dedicated to dealing with and interviewing people with learning difficulties and mental disorders. It looks at communication and memory difficulties and responses to perceived aggression. The mental Capacity Act 2005 is explored to ensure that officers have an understanding of Section 44 of the Act - Ill Treatment or Neglect. It fully explains the concept of lacking capacity, inability to make decisions and acting in the best interests of the individual. |

*Table 1: Modules currently included in the IPLDP and Police Community Support Officer Learning Programme*

*Table 2*

| | *Topics and outcomes covered by e-learning* |
|---|---|
| 3 | (aim) Demonstrate an understanding of a range of learning disabilities to be able to effectively communicate with and support the individual |
| 2d | Skills and strategies to break down possible barriers to communication when dealing with a person who has a learning disability. |
| 2e | The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended in relation to learning disabilities. |
| 6a | The reasons why people experiencing mental ill health issues or learning disabilities are at greater risk of becoming a victim of crime. |
| 6b | The Association of Chief Police Officers' definition of 'Hate Crime' and the impact that a hate incident can have on a victim. |
| 6c | The meaning of 'vulnerable' and 'intimidated' witness as they apply to section 16 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999. |
| 6d | Examples of behavioural and physical characteristics that may serve as prompts to identifying vulnerable witnesses. |
| 6e | Why information may be difficult to obtain from a vulnerable witness and suggest ways to overcome those difficulties. |

*Table 2*

| | *Topics and outcomes covered by e-learning* |
|---|---|
| 3c | Effective communication skills and strategies to break down possible barriers and identify individual needs of people who may be experiencing mental health problems within a variety of policing contexts. |
| 3e | Strategies that could help reduce the possibility of agitation when dealing with individuals experiencing a mental health problem. |
| 3f | Strategies for de-escalation of an existing crisis or distress situation when dealing with individuals experiencing a mental health problem. |

*Note:*
Numerals followed by letters are references to the Learning Descriptor v 1.5

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints people with learning difficulties have made against police officers in each of the last five years. [303984]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 3 December 2009]:* The Home Office does not hold this information centrally. It is a matter for each police force to retain such information.

The Police Reform Act, 2002 places a duty on all police forces to record all complaints made by members of the public about the conduct of those serving with the police. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is responsible for the collation and publication of complaints statistics for England and Wales.

Complaints made by people with learning difficulties, is not a category currently used by the IPCC in the collation of its complaints statistics. The IPCC have however recently requested that forces provide information relating to complainant disability and they are working with forces to ensure the consistent and accurate recording of these data going forward.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received from hon. Members on the conduct of police officers dealing with people with learning difficulties. [303987]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 3 December 2009]:* Since February 2008 I am aware that four hon. Members have written to Home Office Ministers regarding the conduct of police officers in dealing with people with learning difficulties. These include one from the hon. Member himself, to the Home Secretary, in June of this year.

Since the representations concerned police training matters they were passed to the Chief Executive of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) for consideration and a reply.

## Political Activities

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost of policing party political conferences in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [304215]

**Mr. Hanson:** We have provided a total of £9.08 million in 2007-08 and £11.2 million in 2008-09 in special grant to police authorities for policing party political conferences.

Special grant is intended to provide financial assistance in exceptional circumstances to help meet costs where additional expenditure, incurred by the force, would otherwise create a serious threat to the authority's financial stability and would threaten seriously to compromise the force's capacity to deliver normal policing.

## Radicalism

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which civil society organisations his Department has entered into partnerships and agreements to support the delivery of policies related to extremism in the last five years. [300480]

**Mr. Hanson:** Extremism may take many forms. As regards the community-based organisations undertaking work in support of the Prevent agenda, these are funded through Communities and Local Government. However, the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism Prevent Interventions Unit have also sponsored Prevent work with a range of community-based organisations during the past five years. This includes the funding of projects based on sports, education and mentoring in various environments.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what partnerships and initiatives designed to tackle the spread of extremism on the internet his Department has entered into with overseas authorities and agencies in the last 10 years. [300482]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Government are actively engaged in multilateral and bilateral discussions to explore options available to tackle online violent extremist material. For example, we participated actively in a year-long European project which has just been completed and are currently discussing a follow-up project with European partners. The Government are also assisting with the development of a Europol hosted web portal which is available to investigating agencies across the EU, to share information on open access terrorism related websites and content. Law enforcement agencies have also engaged with partner organisations on operational matters.

The internet hate crime action plan contains actions to improve co-operation with other states in addressing internet hate crime, including prejudice motivated extremism.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has evaluated on the root causes of extremism; and what steps he has taken to tackle them. [301467]

**Mr. Hanson:** Extremism takes many forms. Our assessment is that the main violent extremist threat to the UK is from al-Qaeda or al-Qaeda inspired groups. Experience here and abroad has identified a range of factors that in combination can lead to individuals supporting or becoming violent extremists. The main objectives of the Prevent strand of CONTEST are informed by this work.

## Radicalism: Crime Prevention

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the adequacy of information on extremism available to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the police to enable them to tackle it; and if he will make a statement. [301403]

**Mr. Hanson:** My Department and the police rely on high quality reporting from a wide range of sources appropriate to different forms of extremism including the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre and community tension monitoring information gathered by the police. Through websites, bulletins and bespoke reports relevant information is made available to those at the frontline in the police service and the wider public sector.

## Stop and Search: Greater London

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stop-and-searches were carried out under *(a)* section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and *(b)* section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 in each London borough in each month since May 2007; and how many searches resulted in (i) an arrest and (ii) a conviction for each type of search. [304307]

**Mr. Hanson:** Information on stop-and-searches in 2007-08 (the latest period available) under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, in the Metropolitan police force area and City of London, broken down by quarter, are provided in the following table.

Data broken down by month and London borough are not available as the information reported to the Home Office on stop and searches are broken down by police force area and quarter only.

Information on stops and searches conducted in 2008-09 is scheduled to be published in March 2010.

*Stop-searches and resultant arrests under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, by quarter and police force area, Greater London 2007-08*

*Number*

| | *Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984* | | *Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Searches* | *Resultant arrests* | *Searches* | *Arrests for possession of an offensive weapon or dangerous instrument* | *Arrests for other reasons* |
| *Metropolitan Police* | | | | | |
| Quarter 1 (April 2007 to June 2007) | 86,119 | 10,238 | 2,686 | 14 | 77 |
| Quarter 2 (July 2007 to September 2007) | 90,807 | 10,242 | 4,867 | 18 | 150 |
| Quarter 3 (October 2007 to December 2007) | 96,593 | 10,386 | 4,812 | 24 | 198 |
| Quarter 4 (January 2008 to March 2008) | 120,064 | 11,031 | 5,106 | 28 | 119 |
| Total 2007-08 | 393,583 | 41,897 | 17,471 | 84 | 544 |
| *City of London* | | | | | |
| Quarter 1 (April 2007 to June 2007) | 1,767 | 245 | — | — | — |
| Quarter 2 (July 2007 to September 2007) | 1,539 | 252 | 2 | — | — |
| Quarter 3 (October 2007 to December 2007) | 1,203 | 202 | — | — | — |
| Quarter 4 (January 2008 to March 2008) | 1,252 | 175 | 1 | — | — |
| Total 2007-08 | 5,761 | 874 | 3 | — | — |
| *Greater London* | | | | | |
| Quarter 1 (April 2007 to June 2007) | 87,886 | 10,483 | 2,686 | 14 | 77 |
| Quarter 2 (July 2007 to September 2007) | 92,346 | 10,494 | 4,869 | 18 | 150 |
| Quarter 3 (October 2007 to December 2007) | 97,796 | 10,588 | 4,812 | 24 | 198 |
| Quarter 4 (January 2008 to March 2008) | 121,316 | 11,206 | 5,107 | 28 | 119 |
| Total 2007-08 | 399,344 | 42,771 | 17,474 | 84 | 544 |

## Terrorism: Detainees

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to bring forward proposals to increase the maximum period for pre-charge detention for terrorist suspects; and if he will make a statement. [304030]

**Mr. Hanson:** There are no plans for the Home Secretary to bring forward legislation to extend the maximum period for pre-charge detention at this time.

## Work Permits

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the work permits granted on the basis of intra-company transfer in respect of non-EU IT contractors in the last five years were valid on the latest date for which figures are available. [303040]

**Mr. Woolas:** The work permit arrangements closed on 26 November 2008 and were replaced by the Points Based System.

The number of work permits granted during the period 1 January 2004 to 26 November 2008 on the basis of intra-company transfers in respect of non-EU IT employers that were still valid on 27 November is 31,660.

Figures are rounded to nearest 5.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for a work permit on the basis of intra-company transfer were *(a)* made and *(b)* granted in respect of non-EU IT contractors in each of the last (i) five years and (ii) eight quarters; and if he will make a statement. [303041]

**Mr. Woolas:** The work permit arrangements closed on 26 November 2008 and were replaced by the Points Based System.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) under what circumstances service personnel serving in Afghanistan are not issued with a personal morphine capsule; [300265]

(2) whether all service personnel entering theatre in Afghanistan have been issued with a personal morphine capsule. [300266]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: Personal morphine auto injectors are issued to service personnel in Afghanistan rather than personal morphine capsules. They should be issued to all service personnel who deploy "outside the wire" of the main operating bases. Those staff who work in the main operating bases, Camp Bastion and Kandahar Airfield, are issued with personal morphine auto injectors if the threat level dictates they should.

The only circumstance when personal morphine auto injectors should not be issued to service personnel in Afghanistan is when they are based in a main operating base where the threat level does not require it.

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* minor injuries, *(b)* serious injuries and *(c)* fatalities among Afghan civilians have been recorded by his Department in Afghanistan in each year since 2001. [303808]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The UK Government do not collate or publish figures for civilian casualties in Afghanistan because of the immense difficulty and risks of collecting robust data. Every effort is made to avoid civilian casualties and any that are the result of action by UK armed forces are always a matter of profound regret.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 657W, on Afghanistan peacekeeping operations, how many helicopters have been deployed to Afghanistan as a direct result of the UK-French helicopter initiative. [304349]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The first three helicopters will deploy to Afghanistan this month. We expect a further four helicopters to deploy from late 2010 and up to a further four by 2013.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his NATO counterparts on sourcing the requirement for ISAF's Operational Reserve Force; and what progress has been made in these discussions. [304361]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The operational reserve force for ISAF has not been filled since 2007. NATO's priority has been to generate operational forces for deployment into theatre rather than the reserve, and this has been the focus of discussions in the alliance.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Pakistani military personnel are *(a)* assigned, *(b)* attached and *(c)* embedded with coalition military forces in Regional Command South. [304368]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There are currently no personnel from the Pakistani armed forces assigned to, attached to or embedded with coalition armed forces in regional command (south). There is a small team of Pakistani military personnel based at the official border crossing point in regional command (south); they are working with Afghan and coalition partners to help facilitate border crossing activity.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British military personnel are *(a)* embedded with Pakistani military units and *(b)* based in Pakistan to co-ordinate military operations in support of British military operations in Regional Command South. [304372]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There are currently no UK military personnel embedded with Pakistani military units. There are three UK military staff based at the British high commission in Islamabad, who provide a liaison and co-ordination function between the Pakistani military and UK and NATO operations in Afghanistan, which includes regional command (south).

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what records his Department keeps in respect of civilian contractors killed while working in support of UK operations overseas; how many such contractors have been killed while supporting UK operations in Afghanistan since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [304744]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We have a record of the civilian contractors killed supporting UK forces in Iraq who have been recorded on the memorial wall at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire. We hold some records that have been provided by contractors supporting UK forces in Afghanistan.

Detailed and reliable information on the number of contractors killed while supporting UK operations in Afghanistan is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Collating comprehensive data on fatalities suffered by our contractors is very difficult due to the variety of contractors and the various ways in which they are employed.

We greatly value the work done by our civilian contractors in supporting operations in Afghanistan and we take very seriously our responsibilities towards them.

## Air Force: Military Bases

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name and *(b)* rank is of the RAF Commander at (i) RAF Croughton, (ii) RAF Menwith Hill, (iii) RAF Fairford, (iv) RAF Molesworth, (v) RAF Feltwell, (vi) RAF Lakenheath, (vii) RAF Mildenhall, (viii) RAF Upwood, (ix) RAF Barford St John, (x) RAF Alconbury, (xi) RAF Wyton, (xii) RAF Digby, (xiii) RAF St Mawgan, (xiv) RAF Blenheim Crescent and (xv) RAF Welford; and how many RAF personnel are based at each. [303580]

**Bill Rammell:** The rank of the RAF Commander and the name and rank of the Station Commander, together with the number of RAF personnel based at the RAF bases in the table are as follows:

| *Base* | *Position* | *Name/rank* | *Number of RAF personnel* |
|---|---|---|---|
| RAF Croughton<br>RAF Barford St. John<br>RAF Blenheim Crescent | RAF Commander | Squadron Leader | 1 |
| RAF Menwith Hill | RAF Commander | Squadron Leader | 1 |
| RAF Fairford<br>RAF Welford | RAF Commander | Squadron Leader | 1 |
| RAF Alconbury<br>RAF Molesworth<br>RAF Upwood | RAF Commander | Squadron Leader | 2 |
| RAF Lakenheath<br>RAF Feltwell | RAF Commander | Squadron Leader | 1 |
| RAF Mildenhall | RAF Commander | Squadron Leader | 5 |
| RAF Wyton<br>RAF Brampton<br>RAF Henlow | Station Commander | Group Captain | 850 |
| RAF Digby | Station Commander | Group Captain | 200 |
| RAF St. Mawgan | Station Commander | Wing Commander | 140 |

The names of the RAF Commanders have been withheld in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

## Armed Forces: Casualties

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the policy is of each of the armed forces on the confirmation of acting ranks held by members of the armed forces killed in active duty. [303617]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The award of acting rank is given to service personnel who are required to undertake the role and responsibilities of a higher rank, either for a limited period of time, where they have been selected for promotion but their promotion has yet to be confirmed by the individual service authorities, or they have not yet completed pre-requisite promotion courses.

In the event of death while holding acting rank, personnel will continue to be referred to by the rank with which they were formally addressed by immediately prior to their death.

## Armed Forces: Housing

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints Modern Housing Solutions received about animal infestations in service accommodation in each of the last five years. [304331]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The requested information is not recorded separately and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints were received by Modern Housing Solutions about accommodation for service personnel and their families in each of the last 12 months. [304332]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) is responsible for the repair and maintenance of some

44,000 service family accommodation properties in England and Wales, and attend some 200,000 response repair jobs each year.

The following table details the total number of complaints received about all aspects of the maintenance and repair service provided for the last 12 months:

| Month | Complaints |
|---|---|
| *2008* | |
| November | 467 |
| December | 390 |
| *2009* | |
| January | 534 |
| February | 465 |
| March | 497 |
| April | 532 |
| May | 480 |
| June | 497 |
| July | 573 |
| August | 518 |
| September | 584 |
| October | 561 |

These figures include calls about all aspects of the repair and maintenance service provided by MHS, ranging from missed or late appointments and duration of work, to vehicle parking and debris left on site.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints were received by Modern Housing Solutions on the maintenance of service accommodation in *(a)* Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, *(b)* the Highlands and *(c)* Scotland in each month in 2009 to date. [304651]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Housing Prime Contract with Modern Housing Solutions covers England and Wales only. Service family accommodation (SFA) in Scotland is repaired and maintained by Turner Estate Solutions, the regional prime contractor for Scotland, who repair and maintain some 3,000 SFA properties in Scotland.

It is not possible to provide information in the format requested, however, the total number of complaints received about the repair and maintenance service in Scotland for 2009 is provided in the following table.

| | Number of complaints |
|---|---|
| January | 9 |
| February | 9 |
| March | 7 |
| April | 11 |
| May | 8 |
| June | 2 |
| July | 2 |
| August | 1 |
| September | 6 |
| October | 3 |

## Armed Forces: Pensions

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what pension is payable to a soldier who retires after 15 years in the British Army on 30 April 1997 as a sergeant in a *(a)* Gurkha regiment and *(b)* regiment recruited in the UK. [304704]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 43W.

## Armed Forces: Telephone Services

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints have been received in the last 12 months about the effectiveness of the emergency contact numbers provided for the families of serving personnel. [304671]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The MOD does not maintain records on the number of complaints made on the effectiveness of the emergency contact numbers provided for service families. However, all calls made on these numbers are recorded.

## Climate and Energy Security Envoy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the objectives are of his Climate and Energy Security Envoy. [304475]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The objectives for the joint MOD/FCO climate and energy security envoy are:

To broaden and deepen the debate on the security implications of climate change in key countries;

To ensure increased understanding of climate change risks within the security and defence communities and share best practice;

To address the consequences of climate change for regional and global stability, including the benefits for the military in reducing its own carbon footprint;

To help develop a comprehensive policy approach for climate security across the UK Government.

## Cyprus

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the environmental policy for bird protection on his Department's land in Cyprus; [304189]

(2) what account his Department's policy on the trapping of wild birds on its land in Cyprus takes of the provisions of the EU environmental legislation; [304191]

(3) what legislative provisions of the EU Birds Directive apply to the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) in Cyprus; and what steps are being taken to reduce levels of trapping and killing of wild birds in the SBAs. [304467]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The provisions of the EU environmental legislation on the trapping of wild birds, contained in the EU Birds Directive, have been replicated within the Sovereign Base Areas through the enactment of the Game and Wild Birds Ordinance of 2008.

The Sovereign Base Area Administration (SBAA) has taken a policy decision to adopt all relevant EU legislation relating to the protection of the environment. The SBAA is also committed to meeting the obligations arising from the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, and will introduce Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) next year.

The Sovereign Base Areas Police has mounted 64 operations and committed in excess of 3,900 hours this year combating illegal trapping. This has resulted in 56 arrests. The Sovereign Base Areas Administration works closely with the Game Fund of the Republic of Cyprus and NGOs such as Birdlife Cyprus to exchange information and combine our efforts to tackle this activity.

Education also plays a big part in the process, through school and community liaison visits, and particularly through our Environmental Centre at Akrotiri which receives in the region of 10,000 visitors per year, approximately 5,000 of whom are Cypriot school children.

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of trends in the level of bird trapping through *(a)* liming and *(b)* mist netting on his Department's land in Cyprus in the last five years. [304189]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The following tables provides the number of offences detected by the sovereign base areas police in each of the sovereign base areas over the past five years.

*Eastern sovereign base area*

| | *1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010* | *1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009* | *1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008* | *1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007* | *1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arrests | 21 | 19 | 28 | 24 | 17 |
| Mist Nets | 923 | 698 | 986 | 260 | 294 |
| Lime-sticks | 400 | 590 | 402 | 413 | 698 |

*Western sovereign base area*

| | *1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009* | *1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008* | *1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007* | *1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006* | *1 April 2005 to 31 December 2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arrests | 35 | 71 | 28 | 6 | 3 |
| Mist Nets | 12 | 23 | 25 | 1 | 0 |
| Lime-sticks | 309 | 268 | 196 | 50 | 0 |

## DA Notices

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria his Department applies in determining when to issue a D notice regarding troop movements; and if he will make a statement. [304550]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Defence Advisory (DA) Notice System provides guidance to the UK Media on the public disclosure of sensitive national security information. It is an entirely voluntary system, is not supported by any form of sanction, and the advice offered under it can be accepted or rejected in whole or in part. The five standing DA Notices define the limits of the System. DA Notice No 1—which deals with military operations, plans and capabilities—sets out the criteria applied to the public disclosure of information about troop movements. Specifically, it asks that DA Notice advice should be sought before publishing or broadcasting information about the:

> 'operational movements of .... individual units or formations (as distinct from routine movements unconnected with operations)'.

It is for the DA Notice Secretary to provide this advice by applying the general guidance given in the DA Notices to specific public disclosure cases. In doing so, he seeks expert advice when necessary from appropriate staffs and takes into account relevant information already widely available in the public domain.

## Defence: Procurement

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Mk7 helmets *(a)* have been ordered, *(b)* have been delivered to theatre and *(c)* are planned to be delivered to theatre; and over what period the latter are planned to be delivered. [304673]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** 15,000 Mk7 helmets have been ordered, of which 5,000 have been delivered to theatre. A further 7,000 will be delivered to theatre early next year. Defence Clothing is seeking to contract for more Mk7 helmets to meet requirements over and above the 3,000 remaining from the original contract.

Because helmets are a personnel issue item, theatre stocks will be continually replenished as service personnel return to the UK with their helmet at the end of their tour of duty.

## Departmental Contracts

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts his Department has entered into since January 2009; and what the *(a)* name of the contracting company, *(b)* monetary value, *(c)* purpose and *(d)* date of each was. [303350]

**Mr. Quentin Davies** *[holding answer 1 December 2009]*: I will place the requested information in the Library of the House.

## Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what efficiency savings projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300926]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The MOD is firmly committed to delivering the recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP). My hon. Friend the Minister for Veterans, my hon. Friend the Member for North Durham, (Mr. Jones) has been appointed Value for Money (VFM) Minister and is supported by a board composed of the Minister for Strategic Defence Acquisition Reform, the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, the second permanent under-secretary and the directors general finance and strategy, ensuring senior ownership for driving efficiency throughout the Department. A single programme has been established to deliver the VFM agenda.

MOD's response to the OEP was a £450 million increase in its comprehensive spending review 2007 (CSR07) VFM target to a total of £3.15 billion VFM savings by 2010-11. There is no separate OEP target in this spending review period beyond this contribution to the CSR07 £35 billion cross government target.

By the end of FY 2008-09 MOD had achieved around £650 million VFM savings. An indicative breakdown of the initiatives that make up this figure, along with their anticipated savings by FY 2010-11 are described as follows.

*£ million*

| *Initiative* | *VFM savings at end of FY 2008-09* | *Approximate VFM savings expected by FY 2010-11* |
|---|---|---|
| Improvements in corporate enabling services | 200 | 390 |
| Improvements in the way we support defence equipment | 70 | 253 |
| Driving down costs in the nuclear warhead capability sustainment programme | 60 | 178 |
| Savings following a review of Headquarters British Forces Cyprus | 3.3 | 4.3 |
| Drawdown in both military and civilian personnel in Northern Ireland | 114 | 114 |
| Reprioritisation of research programmes | 25 | 25 |
| Over-delivery from SR04 (agreed with HMT) | 267 | 267 |

Additional VFM savings are being delivered through the Department's planning round, which includes discrete efficiency initiatives and allocative savings, where the Department has chosen to reprioritise its expenditure to ensure its highest priority, delivering success on operations, is supported most effectively. Further progress will be reported in our autumn performance report, which will report VFM savings of around £1.2 billion in the first 18 months of the CSR07 period. We are therefore broadly on track for delivery of the £3.15 billion target.

Work is also in progress to deliver the specific OEP recommendations, which will contribute to the £9 billion which will be delivered across Government in the next spending review. Progress to date includes:

An annual benchmarking of Defence (including trading funds) finance, human resource, estates, information technology, and back office costs;

A review of several MOD assets (the Met Office, the Oil and Pipelines Agency, the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency); and

Exploration of collaborative procurement opportunities.

A number of VFM studies to explore further savings within the Department.

## Departmental Domestic Visits

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303486]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I have visited Scotland four times, Wales twice and Northern Ireland twice in an official capacity in the last 12 months.

## Departmental Drinking Water

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 415W, on departmental drinking water, what the reasons are for the increase in expenditure against the contract between November 2008 and October 2009. [304519]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The increase towards the end of the 12 month period was primarily due to support to Operation Panther's Claw, including provision to members of the Afghan national army and US forces.

## Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303949]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The requested information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Taxis

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302713]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Taxis are used where it is the most cost-effective and economical way of conducting business travel. The mileage accrued when travelling is not recorded. Due to the way that expense data are recorded, the Department is not able to identify expense claims for taxi travel. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302737]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I have not travelled by bus in the course of my official duties, and last travelled by taxi on 30 July 2009.

### Devonport Dockyard

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid to Rolls Royce for work on the refuelling capabilities of Devonport dockyard; and how much his Department originally budgeted for the project. [304778]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The nuclear refuelling facilities at Devonport Royal Dockyard were upgraded as part of the D154 contract, to support Vanguard class submarine refits. Rolls-Royce was a subcontractor for this work; the prime contractor was Devonport Management Ltd.

The original budget for the Rolls-Royce element of this work, when it first started in 1996-97, was £20.4 million. By the completion of the work in 2002, £126 million had been paid to Rolls-Royce.

### Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what legal costs have been incurred by his Department in the case of the nuclear test veterans *(a)* since the start of the litigation, *(b)* since 6 February 2009, *(c)* in relation to the appeal alone and *(d)* for barristers' fees. [302180]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The legal costs incurred in the case of the nuclear test veterans are as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Total since the start of the litigation | 2,661,225.10 |
| *(b)* Since 6 February 2009 | 669,967.34 |
| *(c)* In relation to the appeal alone | 189,338.23 |
| *(d)* Barristers' fees alone | 1,555,389.50 |

These are the actual costs as invoiced to 27 November 2009.

In addition, the High Court ordered the Department to make an interim payment of £7,500,000 on account of costs to the claimants' legal representatives Rosenblatt Solicitors although the Ministry of Defence was given leave to appeal the High Court judgment.

At the conclusion of his judgment Mr. Justice Foskett said:

> "The Government is, of course, pledged to settle legal cases by alternative dispute resolution in all suitable cases whenever the other party agrees to it. In my view, this is such a case."

The Ministry of Defence has adhered to the judge's wish but, unfortunately, I cannot reveal the contents of the negotiations because this would breach the confidentiality agreement between the parties. However, I can say that genuine negotiations have taken place between the parties respective counsels and a settlement proposal was made by the Ministry of Defence, although I cannot disclose the amount. To date, no response has been received from the claimants' counsel or the law firm representing them (Rosenblatts). This is obviously disappointing, but we remain open to meaningful discussions. In the meantime, we have been left with no option but to proceed with our appeal for which the High Court judge has given us permission. I understand the appeal is listed for a three week window starting on 4 May 2010.

### HMS Endurance

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects HMS Endurance to be *(a)* repaired and *(b)* back on operations. [304360]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis) on 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 648W.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many commercial *(a)* aeroplanes and *(b)* ships were hired to assist with the withdrawal of British forces from Iraq; and at what cost. [304364]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** A total of 62 commercial passenger aircraft flights were chartered to assist the withdrawal of British forces from Iraq between 19 April and 31 August 2009. The cost of these flights was £6.11 million.

A total of 29 commercial freight aircraft flights were chartered to assist the withdrawal of British forces from Iraq between 19 April and 31 August 2009. The cost of these flights was £1.77 million.

No ships were hired specifically to assist with the withdrawal of British forces from Iraq and there were no costs in this area. The majority of equipment, vehicles and stores were withdrawn from Iraq on five sailings using the ro-ro ships operated by Foreland on behalf of the MOD under the 25-year private finance initiative arrangement entered into in 1999. A limited quantity of equipment was transported back to the United Kingdom in containers under normal commercial arrangements with contractors using commercially scheduled sailings.

### Low Flying

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the low flying of military aircraft over populated areas. [304914]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To minimise disturbance pilots are instructed to avoid large centres of population, towns with over 10,000 inhabitants. Fixed wing aircraft are to avoid overflight of these areas below 2,000 feet minimum separation distance (MSD). Light aircraft and rotary wing are to avoid overflights below 1,000 feet MSD. Aircraft conducting authorised flypasts may overfly the area at 1,000 feet MSD if approved by MOD.

### Military Bases: Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to develop smart power grids for UK military bases. [304478]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Ministry of Defence is in the process of better understanding its energy consumption through the introduction of smart metering on electricity, gas and oil supplies and these may then have the potential to link into smart grids as they develop across the UK.

The Department has, however, not taken any steps so far to introduce smart power grids on its estate but will be considering "Smarter Grids: The Opportunity" published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change on 2 December 2009.

### NATO Response Force

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what units form the British commitment to the NATO Response Force in 2010. [304159]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** From January to June 2010, the UK's commitment to the NATO Response Force will be an Anti-Submarine Warfare Escort Ship and supporting Logistic Ship; a Deployable Air Operating Base, with six Fighter Bomber Aircraft, six Air Defence Aircraft, two Airborne Early Warning Aircraft, two Air to Air Refuelling Aircraft, and a Nuclear Biological and Chemical Response Company.

From July to December 2010, the UK will contribute an Anti-Submarine Warfare Escort Ship and a Mine Hunter Ship; six Air Defence Aircraft, six Fighter Bomber Aircraft, two Airborne Early Warning Aircraft, and two Air to Air Refuelling Aircraft.

### Navy: Discharges

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people *(a)* requested and *(b)* were granted a discharge from the Royal Navy on grounds of ill health in the last five years. [304193]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** During the period November 2004 to November 2009 the Naval Service Medical Board of Survey and Naval Service Medical Employability Board considered the cases of 835 Royal Navy personnel who expressed a desire to be invalided from the service. Of this number 766 were discharged on medical grounds.

### Nigeria and Sierra Leone: Peacekeeping Operations

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has incurred on engaging private security companies and private military companies for work undertaken in *(a)* Nigeria and *(b)* Sierra Leone in each of the last three years. [304645]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** None.

### Territorial Army

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 662-3W, on the Territorial Army, when he expects to place the information in the Library. [304322]

**Bill Rammell:** I have written to the hon. Member. A copy of this information was placed in the Library of the House on 12 November 2009.

### Trident Missiles

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which country the gas reservoirs for Trident nuclear warheads are filled with tritium; and if he will make a statement. [303891]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 3 December 2009]*: This information is being withheld for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

### USA: Defence

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there have been any changes to the range of nuclear weapons-related information and material which can be exchanged between the US and the UK since 2003. [303889]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply my predecessor gave on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1370W to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), on a related question which confirms there has been no extension to the scope of the Mutual Defence Agreement under which nuclear-related information and material can be exchanged between the US and the UK.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps he has taken to reduce the incidence of anti-Semitism in *(a)* football and *(b)* other sports; what recent representations he has received on that matter; what recent meetings he has had with the Football Association on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [303921]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** While I have received no recent representations or held any recent meetings on the issue of tackling anti-Semitism in sport, I remain fully committed to a sporting landscape free from all forms of discrimination. To this end:

*(a)* Football treats anti-Semitism as it does all forms of racism as an offence under the ground regulations, giving the clubs and Police powers to deal with it should it occur. The Football Association's (FA) close working relationship with the clubs, the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service also ensures that all incidents of discrimination in football are brought to justice. In addition, The FA's anti-Semitism and Islamophobia working group, chaired by my hon. Friend the Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann) and established in July 2008, continues to explore the issues and make recommendations to the FA Board. With the Premier League and the Professional Footballer's Association, the FA also provides funding for the "Kick It Out" campaign, which tackles anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination.

*(b)* Other sports that receive Government funding through Sport England and UK Sport do so on the basis of their compliance with the Equality Standard for Sport. The standard forbids discrimination on the grounds of gender, marital status, race, colour, religion, disability, age, occupation, religion or political opinion other than that in accordance with legal justification.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments Sport England has made to *(a)* Blue Rubicon, *(b)* Edelman and *(c)* FD-LLM and FD-Public Affairs in the last 12 months for which figures are available; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [305143]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information you have requested is not held centrally and is a matter for Sport England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305387]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department[1] received 515 parliamentary questions tabled for answer on a named day during the last 12 months. The amount tabled for answer in each of the last 12 months and the number given a substantive reply are in the table.

| | *Named day questions tabled* | *Number sent a substantive reply on the named day* |
|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | |
| December | 43 | 11 |
| *2009* | | |
| January | 45 | 15 |
| February | 41 | 21 |
| March | 53 | 23 |
| April | 57 | 29 |
| May | 40 | 16 |
| June | 73 | 40 |
| July | 35 | 15 |
| August | 0 | 0 |
| September | 30 | 18 |
| October | 53 | 36 |
| November | 45 | 36 |

[1] Includes figures for named day parliamentary questions tabled to the Minister for the Olympics.

My Department endeavours to answer all named day parliamentary questions on the allocated day but where this is not possible we aim to provide a substantive reply at the earliest opportunity possible.

### EU Law

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* statutory instruments and *(b)* other regulations his Department has brought forward in the 2005 Parliament to meet obligations arising from EU law. [304173]

**Mr. Simon:** In this Parliament, Ministers in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have made the following statutory instruments (including regulations) which arise from obligations in EU law.

The Gambling Act 2005 (Repeal) (Remote Operating Licence and Credit) Regulations 2007 —SI 2007/2321

The Export of Objects of Cultural Interest (Control) (Amendment) Order 2009 SI 2009/2164

The Audiovisual Media Services Regulations 2009 - SI 2009/2979
The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises licences and club premises certificates) (Amendment) (Electronic Applications etc) Regulations 2009 — SI 2009/3159

### Music: Finance

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1557W, on music: finance *(a)* how much of the £500,000 funding announced in December 2007 to set up music rehearsal spaces has now been (i) allocated and (ii) spent and *(b)* how many of the new rehearsal spaces are now open. [304749]

**Mr. Simon:** Although we continue to make good progress on the development of these spaces in liaison with our local authority and music industry partners, and expect to make further offers of grant shortly, for the moment the position remains as set out in the answer of 21 July 2009.

### Olympic Games 2012: East Sussex

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely legacy from the London 2012 Olympics for participation in sport in East Sussex *(a)* in general and *(b)* by children under 14 years old. [304280]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Since the publication of the Government's Legacy Action Plan in June 2008, there has been significant progress on delivering our aims for a lasting community sport legacy from the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics across the UK.

We are investing £480 million, through Sport England's Whole Sport Plan process, in the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of sport during the run up to the games, in order to drive up participation so 1 million more people are doing more sport. The PE and Sport Strategy for Young People sets out how the £780 million of DCMS and DCSF investment is targeted at getting more children to do five hours of sport per week. The huge range of programmes under these strategies will help to ensure that the sporting system in 2012 and beyond is in the best shape possible.

In addition, regional partners are capitalising on national programmes of delivery like Change 4 Life, Living Well and Free Swimming to encourage innovation through partnerships at all levels to create a real and lasting legacy from the 2012 games for East Sussex.

### Portland PR: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the British Board of Film Classification has made to Portland PR in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305134]

**Mr. Simon:** The British Board of Film Classification is independent of Government and receives no public funding. We have no knowledge, powers or remit concerning its contracts.

## Scientists

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions he has met *(a)* the Government Chief Scientific Adviser and *(b)* his Department's Chief Scientific Adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303962]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I have not met the Government Chief Scientific Adviser in the last 12 months, however I regularly meet and take advice from the Department's Chief Scientific Advisor who is in regular contact with him.

## Sports: East of England

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been allocated for expenditure per resident on sports and leisure facilities in each *(a)* district and *(b)* unitary local authority area in the Eastern region in 2009-10. [303186]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested is not held centrally in the manner requested; to provide it would incur disproportionate costs.

## Sports: Finance

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on sport in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* City of York local authority area in each year since 1996-97. [304511]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* Sport England's figures on this breakdown go back to 2002-03 and the following table shows the amount spent on sport in Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since then. This does not include the significant investment that will benefit Yorkshire and the Humber, and the city of York, through the £480 million worth of National Governing Body investment through Sport England's Whole Sport Plans.

| *Financial year* | *Region* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | Yorkshire | 589,245 |
| 2003-04 | Yorkshire | 309,748 |
| 2004-05 | Yorkshire | 572,514 |
| 2005-06 | Yorkshire | 6,027,852 |
| 2006-07 | Yorkshire | 9,191,344 |
| 2007-08 | Yorkshire | 1,609,495 |
| 2008-09 | Yorkshire | 3,851,282 |
| 2009-10 | Yorkshire | 3,332,074 |
| Grand total | | 25,483,554 |

*Source:*
Sport England

*(b)* In addition, £149,800 was spent specifically in the city of York local authority area in 2008-09.

## Stratagem: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the Big Lottery Fund has made to Stratagem in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305138]

**Mr. Simon:** The information you have requested is not held centrally and is a matter for the Big Lottery Fund.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## Tourism

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the revenue generated by tourism in the British uplands in each of the last five years. [303630]

**Margaret Hodge:** VisitBritain does not hold this information in the form requested. We do however know that spend on tourism in Cumbria in 2008 was £68 million[1]. Further statistics on tourism spend at county and town level are available on the VisitBritain website at:

http://www.visitbritain.Org/insightsandstatistics/visitorstatistics/inbound/regions/towns.aspx

[1] Information taken from the Visit Britain website, based on the International Passenger Survey.

## Tourism: Yorkshire and Humberside

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Government has allocated for tourism promotion in Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1996-97. [304510]

**Margaret Hodge:** Yorkshire Forward is the regional development agency (RDA) responsible for supporting tourism in Yorkshire and the Humber. Prior to 2003, the Yorkshire Tourist Board held this responsibility and figures held by region are not available centrally.

Yorkshire Forward has estimated that the following amounts were spent in supporting tourism in the region from 2003:

| | *Amount (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 0.6 |
| 2004-05 | 1.7 |
| 2005-06 | 2.3 |
| 2006-07 | 3.9 |
| 2007-08 | 6.0 |

*Source:*
VisitBritain—British Tourism Framework Review, 2009

VisitBritain and Visit England additionally market Britain overseas and England to British residents. This promotion will benefit Yorkshire and the Humber.

The hon. Member may wish to write to the chief executive of Yorkshire Forward to discover if the regional development agency hold records for the period prior to 2003.

### UK School Games

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 596W, on the UK School Games, under what budgetary headings the £350,000 paid for event management was spent; and to whom payments were made under each such heading. [304818]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Youth Sport Trust is responsible for the delivery of the UK School Games and was given a contribution of £130,000 to cover their costs. The Youth Sport Trust contracted Fast Track with the delivery of the four day event element of the UK School Games and their fee was £220,000.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 596W, on the UK School Games, how much was spent on work with each ambassador. [304819]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Youth Sport Trust spent £28,000 on work with 16 Athlete Ambassadors.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 596W, on the UK School Games, under what budgetary heading the £227,000 paid for event production, media, website etc. was spent; and to whom payments were made under each such heading. [304820]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Youth Sport Trust has provided the following information: All payments were made initially to Fast Track, which was responsible for event management; Fast Track then paid individual suppliers and contractors.

The promotional campaign and research, including website design and publishing, economic impact study, design/artwork and branding cost £48,595.

Media costs, including event photography, a contract with Sportsbeat, cuttings and evaluation were £27,747.

Production facilities, including sound equipment, lighting and TV production cost £68,379.

Media management costs undertaken by the Youth Sport Trust and Fast Track were £82,688.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 596W, on the UK School Games, what payments were made to national governing bodies; and what non-financial support was provided to those bodies. [304821]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Youth Sport Trust has provided the following information.

Payments of between £40,000 and £45,000 were made to hockey, athletics, badminton, fencing, gymnastics, judo, swimming, table tennis, and volleyball. An additional £10,000 went to disability sports: athletics, swimming, table tennis, boccia.

Non-financial support provided included:

Training of staff
Support of staff—development meetings
Resource support—development and production
Training and support of Champion Ambassadors
Strategic review of competition pathways.

## JUSTICE

### Ashwell Prison

**Mr. Ronnie Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date he expects the report on the riot at HM Prison Ashwell to be published. [302182]

**Mr. Straw:** The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has drawn up an action plan in response to each of the recommendations in the report, all of which were accepted by Ministers. I placed a copy of the action plan in the Libraries of the House in response to a question from the hon. Member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier) on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 462W.

It would not be appropriate to publish a restricted report, containing sensitive information and while a police investigation is continuing. Key findings were, however that the incident could not have been foreseen; that the prisoners held at Ashwell were appropriate for the prison; and that staffing levels were also appropriate.

A strategic review of Ashwell is well underway, and I will report to the House once further decisions have been taken.

### C-NOMIS Database Project

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any officials of his Department who were working on the C-NOMIS database project up until October 2008 have since moved to private organisations who have won contracts from his Department in respect of the C-NOMIS project. [300958]

**Maria Eagle:** A senior manager who had worked on the C-NOMIS project is on secondment to an incumbent supplier, which has had a contract change notice awarded. In addition, a senior manager employed by the probation service and who was seconded to the National Offender Management Service to work on the NOMIS Programme has, following retirement, taken up employment with an incumbent supplier, which has had a contract change notice awarded.

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking against officials in his Department for not following Government procurement procedures in respect of the C-NOMIS database project. [300957]

**Maria Eagle:** Officials working on the C-NOMIS project followed Government procurement procedures.

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate the C-NOMIS database project board had made of the cost of the project in the period up to October 2007. [300959]

**Maria Eagle:** A C-NOMIS Project finance manager was recruited in late 2006. He undertook a comprehensive review and informed the C-NOMIS project board that the total cost of completion (one off investment and ongoing live support until 2020) was estimated to be £690 million. The Minister, David Hanson MP, was briefed accordingly and he stopped the project in 2007.

The National Offender Management Service has since confirmed that the cost of the C-NOMIS project from inception to December 2007 was £160.7 million (which excludes depreciation and cost of capital). The majority of this work has been re-used in the Prison-NOMIS project, which now forms part of the NOMIS Programme.

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will initiate an inquiry into the application of Government procurement procedures in respect of the C-NOMIS database project. [300785]

**Maria Eagle:** Procurement of the C-NOMIS project was carried out in accordance with the public services contracts regulations.

### Convictions : Personnel

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees of his Department and its agencies were convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [302188]

**Mr. Straw:** As the Ministry's disciplinary processes, are devolved to a local level, there is no central recording of the total number of criminal convictions incurred by staff. To determine the number of employees convicted of any criminal offences would require contacting all work areas within the Ministry. To do so would incur disproportionate cost.

However, the Ministry's conduct policy requires all employees to notify their managers about a criminal conviction and, depending on the circumstances of the case, disciplinary proceedings may be instigated at a local level. Where such a procedure is invoked it is possible to identify employees with convictions. The Ministry collates this information centrally but the reasons are not held in every case.

For the period 1997 to 2007 (up to the date of the establishment of the Ministry), the number of disciplinary cases related to convictions can be sourced only at a disproportionate cost. Since 2007, the number of staff in the Ministry's staff subject to formal disciplinary action following receipt of a criminal conviction/police caution is detailed in the following table:

| *Period* | *Number of cases* |
|---|---|
| 9 May 2007 to 8 May 2008 | 59 |
| 9 May 2008 to 8 May 2009 | 36 |
| 9 May 2009 to 31 October 2009 | 14 |
| Total | 109 |

The total number of people employed by the Ministry of Justice varies from day-to-day. The cases above are from an employment population of circ. 79,840 in 2007-08 and 80,750 in 2008-09. The staff numbers used are published headcount figures on 31 March 2009 held on the Office for National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk

### Courts: Domestic Violence

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding the Government has allocated to specialist domestic violence courts in England and Wales in each year since 2006. [303971]

**Maria Eagle:** Specialist domestic violence courts are based on a partnership approach to domestic violence by the police, prosecutors, court staff, the probation service and specialist support services for victims. They therefore involve the approach of the wider criminal justice system, rather than simply a court building or jurisdiction. Agencies work together to identify, track and risk assess domestic violence cases, support victims of domestic violence and share information better so that more offenders are brought to justice.

The funding allocated by the Government to specialist domestic violence courts is for two components of the system; Independent Domestic Advisers and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences. In 2006-07, the Government allocated £3 million. In 2007-08 this figure rose to £4.85 million. In 2008-09 and 2009-10 £6.1 million per year has been allocated for the continued roll-out of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, some of which are not linked to specialist domestic violence courts.

All other components of the model are either met through existing services or by adapting existing work practices.

### Dangerous Driving: Invalid Vehicles

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what programmes his Department has for people who have committed an offence of riding mobility scooters in a dangerous way. [302133]

**Mr. Khan:** I have been asked to reply.

There is no offence in law of riding a mobility scooter in a dangerous manner, therefore there are no mandatory driver rehabilitation programmes in place.

### Departmental Domestic Visits

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303490]

**Mr. Straw:** I made five official visits in total to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in the past 12 months. The dates and reason for travel are listed.

*(a) Scotland*

16 April 2009

Regional Cabinet

*(b) Wales*

3 December 2009 - Speech on the Administration of Justice in Wales

23 July 2009 - Regional Cabinet

8 April 2009 - Visit to HMP Cardiff and Cardiff Magistrates' Court

*(c) Northern Ireland*

7 September 2009 - Opening of the Legal Year in Northern Ireland

All travel was made in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

## Departmental Food

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300191]

**Claire Ward:** Percentages of each product type used by the Ministry of Justice that are produced in the UK are shown in the following table:

| | | Percentage | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Reference* | *Category* | *MoJ* | *MoJ-public sector prisons* | *MoJ-private prisons* |
| | *Meat and poultry* | | | |
| *(a)* | Mutton and lamb | 55 | 65 | 53 |
| *(b)* | Beef and veal | 84 | 46 | 48 |
| *(c)* | Poultry meat | 14 | 2 | 40 |
| *(d)* | Pork | 70 | 18 | 36 |
| *(d)* | Bacon | 4 | 0 | 28 |
| | *Vegetables, salads and fruit* | | | |
| *(g)* | Ware potatoes—whole, unprepared | 97 | 98 | 99 |
| *(g)* | Processed potatoes—for prepared both whole and cut | 6 | 64 | 60 |
| *(g)* | Roots and onions, e.g. carrots, parsnips, onions, turnips and swedes | 97 | 66 | 77 |
| *(g)* | Brassicas, e.g. Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower | 80 | 55 | 78 |
| *(g)* | Legumes, e.g. beans (broad), beans (runner and dwarf), peas (green for market), peas (green for processing), peas (harvested dry) | 74 | 1 | 24 |
| *(g)* | Protected vegetables, e.g. tomatoes (round, vine, plum and cherry), tomatoes (cold), cucumbers, lettuce, celery, sweet peppers | 38 | 39 | 45 |
| *(g)* | Other vegetables, e.g. asparagus, celery, leeks, lettuce, watercress | 75 | 18 | 56 |
| *(h)* | Orchard fruit, e.g. dessert apples, culinary apples, pears, plums | 40 | 0 | 12 |
| *(h)* | Soft fruit, e.g. strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, blackcurrants | 39 | 0 | 26 |

*Her Majesty's Court Service and headquarters buildings—locations with centrally let catering contracts*[1]

| *Ministry of Justice* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Public sector prisons | 128 |
| Private prisons | 11 |

[1] There are no food contracts.

This most recent information is contained in a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs report for 2007-08 detailing the proportion of food grown or reared in the UK used by Whitehall Departments, including that supplied to public sector prisons in England and Wales under contracts negotiated by HM Prison Service, now part of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

A copy of this report was placed in the House of Commons Library. A copy can be obtained using the following link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/policy/publicsectorfood/documents/psfpi-datareport081125.pdf

## Departmental Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302724]

**Mr. Straw:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* Not in the last 12 months, and

*(b)* 17 September 2009.

## Departmental Working Hours

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of staff of his Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301329]

**Mr. Straw:** In the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the number and proportion of staff who work part-time is shown in the following table.

Table of Part-timers and Full-timers in the Ministry of Justice

| | *Part Time (PT)* | *PT (%)* | *Full Time (FT)* | *FT (%)* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 11,259 | 14.1 | 68,604 | 85.9 | 79,863 |

*Note:*

ONS Data as at 30m June 2009

These figures include civil servants employed in the MOJ, its executive agencies and Wales Office plus MOJ staff on secondment to Scotland Office all of which are recorded on the central HR databases.

Managers consider all requests to work flexibly. Many of these requests for flexible working may be made informally and therefore will not be formally recorded. Information concerning how many staff participate in such arrangements is not collated centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

In the MOJ all jobs are available on a job-share or flexible basis, unless there is a business reason why this cannot be granted.

## Driving Offences

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* England were disqualified from driving as a result of (i) drink driving, (ii) speeding and (iii) dangerous or reckless driving in each of the last 10 years. [302925]

**Claire Ward:** The number of disqualifications imposed at all courts in the Bedfordshire police force area, the East of England Government office region and England for driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, speed limit offences, dangerous and careless driving offences, is given in Tables 1, 2 and 3 from 1998 to 2007 (latest available).

There is no specific offence of reckless driving, thus information included in the table is for offences of dangerous and careless driving.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

*Table 1: The number of disqualifications imposed at all courts in the Bedfordshire police force area, for selected motoring offences, from 1998 to 2007*[1,2]

| | | | | | | | | | | *number of offences* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Dangerous driving | 35 | 36 | 32 | 37 | 41 | 71 | 48 | 64 | 70 | 61 |
| Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 993 | 820 | 756 | 857 | 899 | 1,013 | 1,016 | 987 | 1,073 | 994 |
| Careless driving | 17 | 13 | 22 | 42 | 34 | 37 | 28 | 34 | 47 | 48 |
| Speed limit offences | 158 | 121 | 126 | 138 | 117 | 289 | 238 | 441 | 355 | 258 |
| Total | 1,203 | 990 | 936 | 1,074 | 1,091 | 1,410 | 1,330 | 1,526 | 1,545 | 1,361 |

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

*Table 2: The number of disqualifications imposed at all courts in the East of England Government office region*[1]*, for selected motoring offences, from 1998 to 2007*[2,3]

| | | | | | | | | | | *number of offences* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Dangerous driving | 373 | 376 | 322 | 333 | 422 | 555 | 485 | 469 | 452 | 461 |
| Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 7,732 | 7,553 | 6,933 | 7,391 | 8,038 | 8,406 | 8,860 | 8,544 | 8,968 | 8,482 |
| Careless driving | 149 | 141 | 162 | 221 | 256 | 260 | 253 | 288 | 279 | 274 |
| Speed limit offences | 1,705 | 1,772 | 1,403 | 1,591 | 1,450 | 1,497 | 1,477 | 1,870 | 1,609 | 1,375 |
| Total | 9,959 | 9,842 | 8,820 | 9,536 | 10,166 | 10,718 | 11,075 | 11,171 | 11,308 | 10,592 |

[1] Includes Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk police force areas.

[2] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

*Table 3: The number of disqualifications imposed at all courts in England, for selected motoring offences, from 1998 to 2007*[1,2]

| | | | | | | | | | | *number of offences* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004*[3] | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Dangerous driving | 4,570 | 4,269 | 4,225 | 4,116 | 5,071 | 6,220 | 6,177 | 5,256 | 4,914 | 4,675 |
| Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 80,332 | 77,827 | 74,697 | 73,685 | 79,310 | 81,139 | 84,669 | 81,107 | 81,461 | 78,503 |
| Careless driving | 1,423 | 1,445 | 1,478 | 1,861 | 2,026 | 1,988 | 2,240 | 2,164 | 2,085 | 2,232 |
| Speed limit offences | 11,565 | 11,551 | 10,695 | 10,951 | 8,739 | 9,330 | 9,582 | 9,875 | 8,977 | 7,917 |

*Table 3: The number of disqualifications imposed at all courts in England, for selected motoring offences, from 1998 to 2007[1,2]*

*number of offences*

| *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006[3]* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 97,890 | 95,092 | 91,095 | 90,613 | 95,146 | 98,677 | 102,668 | 98,402 | 97,437 | 93,327 |

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Figures given include revised figures for Sussex police force area.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

## Driving Offences: Norwich

**Chloe Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fines for speeding offences have been *(a)* issued to and *(b)* paid by residents of Norwich North constituency in each year since 1997. [301700]

**Maria Eagle:** Information held by the Ministry of Justice, on the Court Proceedings Database, on the number of court imposed fines issued for speed limit offences in the Norfolk police force area, from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is given in table 1. Data held centrally are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

In addition to court fines, information provided by the Home Office on the number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued by the police for speeding offences, in the Norfolk police force area, for the period 1997 to 2007 (latest available) are provided in table 2.

It is not possible to separately identify FPNs issued to residents of Norwich, North constituency as the data reported to the Home Office are broken down by police force area only. Additionally, information on payment rates of fixed penalty notices for speeding offences are not available as the data reported to the Home Office are not broken down by offence. Data for 2008 are scheduled to be published in March 2010.

Her Majesty's Courts Service advise that it is not possible, from revenue received, to separately identify fines registered by the courts for speeding offences.

*Table 1: The number of fines imposed at all courts in the Norfolk police force area for speed limit offences[1], from 1997 to 2007[2,3]*

*Number of offences*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of fines | 1,215 | 1,372 | 1,679 | 1,374 | 1,449 | 1,269 | 2,372 | 2,764 | 2,824 | 3,453 | 2,669 |

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ss. 16, 81, 84, 86, 88 and 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Motorways) Regs. 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926 - byelaws made thereunder.

[2] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice

*Table 2: Number of fixed penalty notices issued in Norfolk police force area for speeding offences, 1997 to 2007[1]*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of fixed penalty notices issued | 4,895 | 5,379 | 9,267 | 4,783 | 5,166 | 17,116 | 31,640 | 26,938 | 25,117 | 24,985 | 24,878 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Home Office Statistics

## Drugs: Crime

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of offences of drug *(a)* possession and *(b)* dealing in (i) Reading East constituency and (ii) Berkshire in the last 12 months. [303328]

**Claire Ward:** Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts for drug possession and dealing in the Thames Valley police force area in 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Data are not available at constituency or county level; police force area data are given in lieu.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

*Numb[illegible] guilty at all courts for the possession and dealing of [illegible] Thames Valley police force area, 2007[1,2]*

| *Offence* | *2007* |
|---|---|
| Having possession of a controlled drug | 1,310 |
| Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply | 188 |
| Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug | 65 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

### East Sutton Park Prison: Prisoner Escapes

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Prison Service on the transfer and subsequent absconsion of Jane Andrews from HMP East Sutton; and if he will make a statement. [303207]

**Mr. Straw:** Ministers would not be routinely informed about the transfer of a prisoner from one open prison to another, and I was not informed in this case. I was informed that this prisoner had absconded, my office was regularly briefed during the time she was unlawfully at large, and I was informed when she was apprehended by Kent Police. An investigation into her abscond is under way. The interim report should be completed by 3 December.

### Females: Prisoners

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Corston Report on women with particular vulnerabilities in the criminal justice system. [300952]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government are committed to diverting vulnerable women, who are not serious or dangerous offenders, from custody. Our strategy is to strengthen services in the community, tackling the complex needs of women who offend and offering viable alternatives to custody; and to ensure that those who do go to prison are treated in ways that are informed by their needs and are gender sensitive.

In line with this approach this year we have awarded 31 grants to third sector organisations to develop additional services in the community for women offenders or those at risk of offending. The Together Women Projects will also continue to meet the multiple and complex needs of women in the community.

Along side this the National Offender Management Service implemented new full search arrangements that take a risk-based approach reducing the frequency of full searches. In addition, gender specific standards which ensure an appropriate response to women prisoners were implemented in all women's prisons this year.

A full progress update will be made to Parliament this December.

### Fixed Penalties: Royal Parks

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 241W, on fixed penalties: Richmond Park, what progress has been made on determining a timeframe for implementing regulations to establish fixed penalties for nuisance offences in Richmond Park. [301017]

**Claire Ward:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 243W, by the Minister of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle). The Government have decided not to proceed with proposals to add the regulations which prohibit littering, dog-fouling and illegal cycling in the Royal Parks, to the Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) scheme. Given the range of other disposals available to the police and courts, we have decided not to extend the scheme to any new offences at this time. On 9 November, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Jack Straw) announced a review of the use of out of court disposals including PNDs to look at whether they were being used inappropriately by the police and Crown Prosecution Service.

### Hollesley Bay Prison

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether any prisoners convicted of murder are being held at HMP Hollesley Bay; [302251]

(2) whether any prisoners serving life sentences are being held at HMP Hollesley Bay; [302252]

(3) what categories of prisoner are held at HMP Hollesley Bay. [302253]

**Maria Eagle:** There are currently 17 prisoners convicted of murder at HMP Hollesley Bay.

There are currently 34 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences. Of these 26 have life sentences, seven have imprisonment for public protection (IPP) sentences and one has a detention for public protection (DPP) sentence.

All prisoners at Hollesley Bay are category D.

Transfer of any prisoner to open conditions will only take place if continued detention in closed conditions is no longer necessary for the protection of the public. Open conditions allow prisoners to find work, re-establish family ties and reintegrate into the community. All these are essential components for successful resettlement and an important factor in protecting the public.

### Homicide: Prisoners Release

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted of murder and subsequently released on compassionate grounds since 1993 have died *(a)* within three months of and *(b)* more than three months after their date of release. [303545]

**Maria Eagle:** We do not hold this information centrally. To provide this information would require a manual examination of paper records and inquiries with agencies responsible for the prisoners' health and welfare following their release at a disproportionate cost.

### Immobilisation of Vehicles

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor have paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302743]

**Mr. Straw:** The policy of the Ministry is that the vehicle user is personally responsible for any fines incurred while the vehicle is allocated to them, including associated administration charges where applicable. This includes fines incurred by other users to whom the user has authorised use of the car *i.e.* additional drivers. The Ministry has not therefore incurred any expenditure on vehicle clamping charges.

## Legal Services Commission: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what interest rate the Legal Services Commission is allowed to charge when taking possession of houses; and if he will make a statement. [303552]

**Maria Eagle:** Members of the public who receive civil legal aid for a money or property dispute, and who succeed in obtaining a financial benefit from their case, are required to repay their legal aid costs, so resources can be recycled to help others. If someone is unable to repay their legal aid costs immediately, these can be postponed as a statutory charge on their property. Where charges are postponed against property, persons are not obliged to make any repayments, or to repay the charge in full until their financial circumstances change, or the property changes hands. The Legal Services Commission will not force anyone to sell their home. However, in order to encourage clients to repay their postponed charge where they can, the charge accrues simple interest, the rate for which is set out in regulations. The current rate is 8 per cent. A written ministerial statement was made concerning this issue by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Justice (Mr. Wills) on 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 23-24WS.

## Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who the members are of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council; and what the relevant qualifications are of each of them. [304149]

**Mr. Wills:** As of December 2009, the members of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council on National Records and Archives are:

*Chairman:* Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, Master of the Rolls

Ms Else Churchill, Genealogy Officer of the Society of Genealogists

Professor Harry Dickinson, Emeritus Professor of British History, University of Edinburgh

Dr. Jeevan Deol, Affiliated Research Associate, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge

Right hon. the Viscount De L'Isle MBE, DL. Owner of the De L'Isle and Sidney family papers at the Centre for Kentish Studies and Penshurst Place

Sir David Durie KCMG, Retired, formerly Governor and Commander in Chief of Gibraltar

Dr. Clive Field OBE, Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham, formerly Director of Scholarship and Collections at the British Library

Ms Christine Gifford, Information Rights expert and Founding Director of Public Partners and Gifford Owen

Dr. Jennifer Haynes, Archives and Manuscripts Manager at the Wellcome Library

Mr. Graeme Herd, Head of Information Technology at Slough Borough Council

Professor Arthur Lucas CBE, Emeritus Professor of Science Curriculum Studies at, and was formerly Principal of, Kings College London

Ms Catherine Maxwell Stuart, Owner of the private family and estate archive at Traquair House, Innerleithen, Peeblesshire

Professor Heidi Mirza, Professor of Equalities Studies in Education at the Institute of Education, University of London

Professor Michael Moss, Professor of Archival Studies at the University of Glasgow

Right hon. the Lord Roper, Formerly Chief Whip for the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords

Ms Janet Smith, County Archivist of Hampshire

Mr. Ian Soutar, Formerly British Ambassador to Bulgaria and Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva

Ms Stephanie Williams, Author, Journalist and user of archives

## National Offender Management Service: Information and Communications Technology

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of arrangements for co-ordination of information and technology systems available to the Probation Service. [301253]

**Maria Eagle:** The assessment of Information Technology (IT) systems available to the National Probation Service (NPS) is co-ordinated by the NPS ICT Board, supported by the ICT Business team who consider the systems available.

Senior probation managers are regularly consulted about the adequacy of current IT systems as part of a wider consultative process intended to support business planning.

IT system development takes place with the authority of the NPS ICT Board once a project has been commissioned, there is a requirement to submit a monthly report, detailing progress to date, the current financial position and highlighting any significant risks or issues facing the project.

A recent example of arrangements for co-ordinated delivery of an IT system within NPS is the NOMIS Programme, which encompasses five projects, three of which will directly benefit the probation service, as follows:

Probation Case Management System (PCMS) will replace a variety of probation systems with a centralised version based on a redevelopment of the existing Delius system;

A data sharing system will be developed and implemented, enabling staff in both probation and in the prisons, to share core information required to support Offender Management; and

The two existing Offender Assessment Systems (OASys), used by prisons and probation, will be replaced by an improved, centralised system that will also have an interface with PCMS.

## Offenders: Mentally Ill

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether training is provided to prison service staff on working with mentally ill female offenders. [302327]

**Maria Eagle:** Training for newly recruited prison officers provides officers with an understanding of mental health disorders and how to respond effectively to all prisoners (including women) experiencing mental ill health. Further training is available to prison officers throughout their career depending on their role within their prison. Training makes specific reference to issues affecting women, where appropriate. All training provides prison officers with the knowledge to identify offenders with mental health issues and refer to appropriate health care professionals.

Prison Service Order 4800, published in April 2008 for implementation in all women's prisons in 2009, provides a set of gender specific standards for women prisoners. The standards draw from existing best practice and cover all areas of regime provision including reception into custody, day to day living in the prison environment and planning for resettlement, as well as discrete groups of women. The main thrust of the standards is about being sensitive and responsive to gender specific needs and addressing them appropriately, in particular through the positive engagement of staff. It is largely a case of good staff training and support, and the introduction of the Women's Awareness Staff Programme training has therefore been key.

### Prison Accommodation

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of cells in each prison in England and Wales were unoccupied on the most recent dates for which figures are available; and for what reasons such cells are not in use. [301249]

**Mr. Straw:** The following table shows the number and proportion of places that constitute each prison's operational capacity that are not being used for the ordinary accommodation of prisoners on 30 October 2009.

| *Prison name* | *Places that are not being used* | *Percentage of places that are not being used* |
|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 6 | 1 |
| Albany | 0 | 0 |
| Altcourse | 38 | 3 |
| Ashfield[1] | 134 | 34 |
| Ashwell | 4 | 2 |
| Askham Grange | 10 | 8 |
| Aylesbury | 7 | 2 |
| Bedford | 17 | 3 |
| Belmarsh | 16 | 2 |
| Birmingham | 12 | 1 |
| Blantyre House | 1 | 1 |
| Blundeston | 12 | 2 |
| Brinsford | 37 | 7 |
| Bristol | 10 | 2 |
| Brixton | 26 | 3 |
| Bronzefield[1] | 23 | 5 |
| Buckley Hall | 4 | 1 |
| Bullingdon | 1 | 0 |
| Bullwood Hall | 3 | 1 |
| Camp Hill | 6 | 1 |
| Canterbury | 6 | 2 |
| Cardiff | 15 | 2 |
| Castington[1] | 70 | 17 |
| Channings Wood | 2 | 0 |
| Chelmsford | 28 | 4 |
| Coldingley | 12 | 2 |
| Cookham Wood[1] | 20 | 17 |
| Dartmoor | 3 | 0 |
| Deerbolt | 19 | 4 |
| Doncaster | 45 | 4 |
| Dorchester | 15 | 6 |
| Dovegate | 0 | 0 |
| Dover | 7 | 2 |
| Downview | 6 | 2 |
| Drake Hall[1] | 36 | 11 |
| Durham | 36 | 4 |
| East Sutton Park[1] | 10 | 10 |
| Eastwood Park[1] | 44 | 12 |
| Edmunds Hill | 9 | 2 |
| Elmley | 2 | 0 |
| Erlestoke | 7 | 1 |
| Everthorpe | 12 | 2 |
| Exeter | 27 | 5 |
| Featherstone | 5 | 1 |
| Feltham[1] | 119 | 16 |
| Ford | 7 | 1 |
| Forest Bank | 7 | 1 |
| Foston Hall[1] | 60 | 21 |
| Frankland | 50 | 6 |
| Full Sutton | 16 | 3 |
| Garth | 14 | 2 |
| Gartree | 2 | 0 |
| Glen Parva | 24 | 3 |
| Gloucester | 4 | 1 |
| Grendon | 6 | 3 |
| Guys Marsh | 3 | 1 |
| Haslar | 18 | 11 |
| Haverigg | 2 | 0 |
| Hewell | 49 | 3 |
| Highdown | 4 | 0 |
| Highpoint | 3 | 0 |
| Hindley[1] | 101 | 23 |
| Hollesley Bay | 3 | 1 |
| Holloway[1] | 90 | 12 |
| Holme House | 10 | 1 |
| Hull | 19 | 2 |
| Huntercombe[1] | 120 | 33 |
| Kennet | 3 | 1 |
| Kingston | 3 | 2 |
| Kirkham | 1 | 0 |
| Kirklevington | 10 | 4 |
| Lancaster | 11 | 5 |
| Lancaster Farms | 9 | 2 |
| Latchmere House | 6 | 3 |
| Leeds | 27 | 2 |
| Leicester | 22 | 6 |
| Lewes | 44 | 6 |
| Leyhill | 15 | 3 |
| Lincoln | 53 | 7 |
| Lindholme | 14 | 1 |
| Littlehey | 15 | 2 |
| Liverpool | 106 | 7 |
| Long Lartin | 3 | 0 |
| Low Newton[1] | 53 | 16 |
| Lowdham Grange | 6 | 1 |
| Maidstone | 0 | 0 |
| Manchester | 22 | 2 |
| Moorland | 22 | 3 |
| Moorland Open | 4 | 2 |
| Morton Hall | 19 | 5 |
| Mount | 4 | 1 |
| New Hall[1] | 62 | 18 |
| North Sea Camp | 7 | 2 |
| Northallerton[1] | 34 | 13 |

| *Prison name* | *Places that are not being used* | *Percentage of places that are not being used* |
|---|---|---|
| Norwich | 28 | 3 |
| Nottingham | 1 | 0 |
| Onley | 14 | 2 |
| Parc | 13 | 1 |
| Parkhurst | 7 | 1 |
| Pentonville | 96 | 8 |
| Peterborough | 58 | 7 |
| Portland | 22 | 4 |
| Prescoed | 1 | 1 |
| Preston | 116 | 14 |
| Ranby | 10 | 1 |
| Reading[1] | 32 | 11 |
| Risley | 9 | 1 |
| Rochester | 6 | 1 |
| Rye Hill | 12 | 2 |
| Send | 10 | 4 |
| Shepton Mallet | 0 | 0 |
| Shrewsbury | 9 | 3 |
| Spring Hill | 16 | 5 |
| Stafford | 2 | 0 |
| Standford Hill | 4 | 1 |
| Stocken | 5 | 1 |
| Stoke Heath[1] | 60 | 10 |
| Styal[2] | 63 | 14 |
| Sudbury | 0 | 0 |
| Swaleside | 0 | 0 |
| Swansea | 0 | 0 |
| Swinfen Hall | 4 | 1 |
| Thorn Cross | 29 | 9 |
| Usk | 1 | 0 |
| Verne | 5 | 1 |
| Wakefield | 8 | 1 |
| Wandsworth | 0 | 0 |
| Warren Hill[1] | 38 | 17 |
| Wayland | 8 | 1 |
| Wealstun | 4 | 1 |
| Wellingborough | 5 | 1 |
| Werrington[1] | 32 | 20 |
| Wetherby[1] | 67 | 16 |
| Whatton | 9 | 1 |
| Whitemoor | 5 | 1 |
| Winchester | 4 | 1 |
| Wolds | 2 | 1 |
| Woodhill | 6 | 1 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 0 | 0 |
| Wymott | 10 | 1 |
| Total | 2,946 | 3 |

[1] Identifies those prisons whose predominant function is to hold juveniles or which hold juveniles
[2] Identifies those prisons whose predominant function is to hold female prisoners

The total number of unoccupied places according to the table is approximately 3,000. This represents the difference between the total operational capacity of the estate and the population (at the end of October). In some cases, prisoners will be held in accommodation that does not feature in a prison's operational capacity (for example, are temporarily located in a segregation unit or in the health care centre, units that do not usually feature in operational capacity) or will be on temporary licence. However, these prisoners would ordinarily be accommodated in the general accommodation of the prison and therefore it is appropriate to include them in the calculation. Reductions in operational capacity because accommodation is not available for current use (for example, because of sustained damage, as in the case of HMP Ashwell, or substantial refurbishment programmes) have been discounted.

The level of unoccupied cells does not reflect the level of free, useable capacity in the estate. Places might be temporarily out of use, for example, where a cell has been damaged or is under going short-term maintenance. Some places cannot be used because they are in double cells required for single occupancy following a safety risk assessment. More generally, the demographics of the population mean that it is impossible in practice to make use of every operationally viable place. This is reflected in the operating margin: an allowance of 2,000 places that is removed from total operational capacity figures to provide the estate's useable operational capacity. The above table suggests that there is useable headroom of around 1,000 places in the estate, which is the current difference between useable operational capacity and the population.

### Prison Accommodation: Sussex

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoner places are available at each prison serving the Sussex area when at full capacity; and how many prisoners were serving sentences at each such prison on the latest date for which figures are available. [304758]

**Mr. Straw:** The following table gives the numbers of prisoners serving sentences in the two prison establishments in Sussex at the end of June 2009, the latest date for which figures are available:

| | *Establishment* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Ford* | *Lewes* |
| Operational capacity | 557 | 723 |
| Sentenced population | 529 | 451 |
| Held on remand and civil offenders | 0 | 213 |
| Total held in custody | 529 | 664 |
| Places available | 28 | 59 |

The operational capacity of a prison is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime. It is determined by area managers on the basis of operational judgment and experience.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Prison Visitors: Drugs

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many visitors to prisons were found to be in possession of illegal drugs in 2007-08; how many such visitors were referred to the police; and what steps were taken in respect of those not referred to the police. [302260]

**Maria Eagle:** The data are not available in the format requested.

It is the National Offender Management Service's policy for all prison visitors found in possession of illicit drugs to be referred to the police. As a result of which in 2007-08 the police made 424 arrests of prison visitors the majority of which would have been for drug offences.

Irrespective of the subsequent action taken by the police, prisons will impose visiting bans and/or closed visits on the visitor concerned. The precise measures imposed will be decided locally, on a case-by-case basis dependant on the precise circumstances of the incident. These measures can also be imposed on the basis of suspicion, without the visitor found to be in possession of drugs.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

### Prisoner Escapes

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many category D prisoners have absconded from prison in each of the last five years. [304756]

**Maria Eagle:** Data are shown in the following table of prisoners who have absconded from open prisons in England and Wales in the last five years broken down by *(a)* year *(b)* number of absconds.

*Number of absconds from all prisons in England and Wales in each of the last five years*

| | Number of absconds (all prisons England and Wales) |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 877 |
| 2005-06 | 700 |
| 2006-07 | 555 |
| 2007-08 | 513 |
| 2008-09 | 362 |

The number of absconds has been falling year on year. Last year was the lowest number of absconds on record.

All prisoners are assessed for suitability to be categorised as category D before allocation to an open prison. Open prisons monitor prisoners' attitude and behaviour for indicators of potential to abscond, however not all incidents of abscond can be predicted.

Following an abscond, the incident is reported to the police. The current rate of arrest and return to custody is 96 per cent.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

### Prisons

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Eastleigh of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 334W, on prisons: convictions, for what reasons the information requested is not held. [303463]

**Maria Eagle:** NOMS' central reporting systems do not record this type of information. The only way to obtain this type of information would be to contact all Prison Service establishments, requesting a check of their local records. This would incur disproportionate cost. Details of prosecutions and convictions, moreover, are not directly the responsibility of NOMS.

However, from April 2009, indictable and triable-either-way offences contained in the Offender Management Act have been included in the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime. Offences recorded by police will be published in next year's annual statistical bulletin, Crime in England and Wales (July 2010).

### Prisons: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many instances of alcohol abuse were reported in each prison in England in each of the last five years. [303546]

**Maria Eagle:** Instances of alcohol use in prisons are treated as a miscellaneous incident and recorded centrally on the Prison Service Incident Reporting System. These incident reports are currently in a format that cannot readily be interrogated electronically. To provide the information requested would involve the manual inspection of more than 100,000 incident records which could only be achieved at disproportionate cost. The National Offender Management Service has in place a strategy to reduce both the supply and the demand for alcohol with a comprehensive range of security measures and searching techniques to detect items of contraband, including alcohol, and prevent smuggling into establishments. It is a criminal offence to convey alcohol into prison and prisoners caught in possession of alcohol within prison will face disciplinary action. Alcohol consumption is a cause of criminality in society and many prisons have programmes in place to assist prisoners to lessen their dependence on alcohol.

### Prisons: Drugs

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Eastleigh of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 492-4W, on prisons: drugs, how many prisoners have tested positive for drugs on *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more occasions in each prison in 2008-09. [303464]

**Maria Eagle:** The information is not held centrally. To provide the data would require a detailed investigation into each prison's mandatory drug testing records, which would be at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many body orifice security scanners are *(a)* installed and *(b)* in use in each prison. [303547]

**Maria Eagle:** This year NOMS purchased and delivered at least one BOSS chair to every prison that did not already have one, with the exception of immigration removal centres, where the use of mobile phones is not prohibited. Some chairs have since been moved between prisons to better match local risk.

In a survey of BOSS chair usage between 17 and 25 September, 115 prisons reported that the BOSS chair was in use. Reasons for non-operation included awaiting building work to accommodate the chair, and chairs awaiting repair or return from repairs. The pattern of use will vary over time and it is not possible to say how many BOSS chairs are operational on any given day.

NOMS Headquarters have not mandated how BOSS chairs must be used. As is the case for many searching technologies and techniques, the decision on how to use the BOSS chairs is for individual Governors to make, and will depend on their local circumstances, including their existing local searching strategies. The relevant Prison Service Instruction (PSI) states:

> "The frequency of searches using the BOSS and policies for its use are for local discretion".

Prisons deploy a range of activities and equipment, including hand-held detection wands, as effective alternatives to BOSS chairs.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which prisons the searching of *(a)* visitors and *(b)* staff is not mandatory; and if he will make a statement. [303549]

**Maria Eagle:** The National Offender Management Service's (NOMS) policy requires that in all prisons, procedures are in place for the searching of prisoners, staff, domestic, official and professional visitors and contractors and that this is set out as part of a written local security strategy agreed with the regional manager.

While the searching of visitors and staff will be carried out in all prisons, the level and frequency of such searching at individual establishments is determined by local security and control needs and this is set out in each prison's local searching strategy.

In the majority of prisons, this will mean a programme of routine searches of both staff and visitors in addition to searches based on suspicion or on receipt of intelligence. In some prisons, particularly some open prisons, a better use of resources may be achieved by carrying out only targeted, intelligence-led or random search programmes.

### Reoffenders

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the recidivism rate is for offenders convicted of *(a)* drug-related crime and *(b)* all other crimes. [303036]

**Claire Ward:** Table 1 shows the one year adult reoffending rates for offenders in England and Wales released from custody in the first quarter (1 January to 31 March) of the years 2000 to 2007, who commenced a court order under probation supervision, or who were discharged from a custodial sentence given for a drug-related offence. The table shows the proportion of offenders who committed at least one further offence and the frequency of offences per 100 offenders. It also shows reoffending rates for the whole cohort.

*Table 1: One-year reoffending rates, offenders commencing a court order or discharged from a custodial sentence, 2000-07 who were convicted for a drug-related offence*

| | | *Number of offenders* | *Actual reoffending rate (Percentage)* | *Number of offences per 100 offenders* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Drug-related offences* | 2000 Q1 | 3,045 | 31.1 | 92.9 |
| | 2002 Q1 | 2,802 | 32.3 | 110.7 |
| | 2003 Q1 | 2,832 | 33.2 | 117.4 |
| | 2004 Q1 | 2,761 | 29.4 | 102.4 |
| | 2005 Q1 | 2,991 | 31.4 | 100.5 |
| | 2006 Q1 | 3,353 | 28.7 | 86.8 |
| | 2007 Q1 | 3,900 | 30.6 | 93.1 |
| *All offences* | 2000 Q1 | 42,734 | 43.0 | 185.0 |
| | 2002 Q1 | 43,247 | 45.5 | 212.7 |
| | 2003 Q1 | 44,093 | 45.4 | 205.3 |
| | 2004 Q1 | 46,512 | 42.9 | 181.3 |
| | 2005 Q1 | 43,429 | 41.2 | 165.7 |
| | 2006 Q1 | 50,281 | 36.6 | 144.0 |
| | 2007Q1 | 50,085 | 39.0 | 147.3 |

*Notes:*
1. Data for 2001 are unavailable due to problems with archived data.
2. Any offences committed in the one-year follow up period are not necessarily of the same offence type as the index.

Please note that drug-related offences includes offences for importing and exporting drugs, for production and supply of drugs, and for drugs possession and small scale supply. There may be a range of offences that have a drug-related element which are not included in these data, but are contained within another offence group.

The table does not show reoffending rates for all drug-related crime as offenders only enter the cohort when they were convicted for their drug-related offence.

Further information on the one-year rates of reoffending can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingof adults.htm

The figures for reoffences include offences of all types. An offender whose original offence was drug-related and who reoffended, may not have committed any more drug-related offences.

## Sentencing

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners sentenced to a custodial term of three months served *(a)* three months, *(b)* six weeks or less and *(c)* one week or less in each year since 1997; [302312]

(2) how many prisoners sentenced to a custodial term of six months served *(a)* six months, *(b)* three months or less and *(c)* six weeks or less of their sentence in each year since 1997. [302313]

**Claire Ward:** Automatic release at the halfway point of sentence was introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 1991. Prisoners who are sentenced to three months therefore normally serve six weeks in prison and prisoners who are sentenced to six months normally serve three months in prison. Adult prisoners sentenced to less than 12 months are not subject to supervision by the probation service on release from custody. However, they are 'at risk' of return to custody by the courts, to serve the unexpired portion of the sentence, if they commit an imprisonable offence before the expiry date of the original sentence. Young offenders (those under the age of 22 released from a term of detention in a YOI) are subject to a minimum of three months supervision. Juvenile prisoners sentenced to a detention and training order are supervised as part of the conditions of these sentences.

The actual amount of time served in prison, following sentence, will depend on a number of factors, including time spent as a remand prisoner or credit for time spent on tagged bail if directed by the court, any added days and release on either home detention curfew or end of custody licence.

Data for 1997 and 1998 are not available.

For those prisoners discharged between 1999 and 2008 having been sentenced to three months, the amount of time served is shown in the following table.

| | *One week or less* | *Six weeks or less* | *Over six weeks and less than three months*[1] | *Three months* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 10 | 3,600 | 4,100 | 20 | 7,700 |
| 2000 | 10 | 3,700 | 4,000 | 10 | 7,800 |
| 2001 | 20 | 3,500 | 3,700 | 20 | 7,200 |
| 2002 | 20 | 3,600 | 3,300 | 80 | 7,000 |
| 2003 | 20 | 3,400 | 3,100 | 90 | 6,600 |
| 2004 | 20 | 3,100 | 3,300 | 90 | 6,500 |
| 2005 | 20 | 2,100 | 3,300 | 50 | 5,400 |
| 2006 | 10 | 1,300 | 3,200 | 70 | 4,600 |
| 2007 | 10 | 1,300 | 3,000 | 90 | 4,300 |
| 2008 | 10 | 700 | 3,100 | 80 | 3,900 |

[1] Around 90 per cent. of prisoners in the over six weeks and less than three months category have served within two to three days of exactly six weeks.

For those prisoners discharged between 1999 and 2008 having been sentenced to six months, the amount of time served is shown in the following table.

| | *Six weeks or less* | *Over six weeks and up including to three months* | *Over three months and less than six months* | *Six months* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 80 | 6,400 | 1,000 | 10 | 7,500 |
| 2000 | 90 | 6,500 | 1,000 | 10 | 7,600 |
| 2001 | 80 | 6,300 | 1,000 | 20 | 7,400 |
| 2002 | 120 | 6,400 | 900 | 10 | 7,400 |
| 2003 | 170 | 6,200 | 600 | 10 | 7,000 |
| 2004 | 110 | 6,200 | 600 | 10 | 6,900 |
| 2005 | 60 | 5,500 | 600 | 10 | 6,100 |
| 2006 | 90 | 4,900 | 600 | 10 | 5,600 |
| 2007 | 70 | 5,000 | 600 | 10 | 5,700 |
| 2008 | 60 | 5,000 | 590 | 20 | 5,700 |

Numbers below 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers over 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 100.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Young Offenders: Education

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on the provision of educational courses for offenders serving custodial sentences in the latest 12 months period for which figures are available. [303775]

**Maria Eagle:** Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) in England on 31 July 2006. OLASS funds the delivery of skills for offenders (aged 15 and over) held in English Public Sector prisons for both sentenced prisoners and those held on remand.

The allocation for the provision of education for prisoners aged 15 to 17 in public sector young offender institutions in England in the academic year 2008/09 was £19.4 million. The allocation for adult prisoners (post 18) held in English Public Sector prisons for the academic year 2008/09 was £142 million.

In Wales, from April 2006, commissioning responsibilities for offender learning and skills provision became the responsibility of Director of Offender Management in Wales. The allocation for adult prisoners held in Welsh Public Sector prisons for the academic year 2008/09 was £2.3 million. Responsibilities for learning and skills provision for those in custody in Wales transferred to the Welsh Assembly Government with effect from 1 April 2009.

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what language courses are offered to offenders serving custodial sentences. [303776]

**Maria Eagle:** Courses in French, German, Spanish, British Sign Language and English for speakers of other languages are offered through the Learning and Skills Council's Offender Learning and Skills Service to offenders in English Public Sector prisons. During the last 12 months, offenders in custody have studied Open University courses in French, German, Spanish and Italian.

– In Wales, taught courses are available in English Literature and Language, along with Welsh, French and German in some prisons. Self study and distance learning are also available for a variety of languages as requested.

The central aim of the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) is to improve each offender's chances of gaining sustainable employment, thus contributing to a reduction in re-offending rates. Having the right skills and qualifications has a positive impact on offenders' well-being and ability to adopt a positive role in society. Learning also has an intrinsic value in its own right—and some learning has the effect of stimulating and encouraging participation and further learning. Language teaching and learning has this engaging and progression supporting effect—and in some cases direct employability impacts.

### Young Offenders: Sentencing

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on *(a)* custodial and *(b)* community sentences for people under the age of 18 years resident in each Youth Offending Team area in the last five years for which figures are available. [303589]

**Maria Eagle:** The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has responsibility for purchasing all the places within the secure estate for children and young people. The requested information is not recorded centrally by YOT area.

Community sentences for those aged under 18 are provided by Youth Offending Teams (YOTs). YOTs are funded from a range of central and local sources and data are not collected centrally on what proportion of this funding is spent on community sentences

### Youth Custody

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children aged 10 to 17 years were given a custodial sentence after pleading guilty to a first time offence in each of the last three years. [303452]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table shows the number of offenders under 18, with no previous reprimand, warning or conviction, who received an immediate custodial sentence in the three years 2006-07 to 2008-09. Data on guilty pleas in relation to first offenders are not available. These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

| | *First-time under-18 offenders receiving custodial sentence* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 374 |
| 2007-08 | 396 |
| 200[illegible]09 | 377 |

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Caparo Group

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department holds any contracts with any of the companies forming part of the Caparo Group. [302866]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not hold any contracts with any of the companies forming part of the Caparo Group.

### Carbon Sequestration

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what projects to deploy carbon capture and storage technology are taking part in the competition for funding for this technology. [303394]

**Joan Ruddock:** There are two projects taking part in the current competition launched in 2007 to support a commercial-scale demonstration of carbon capture and storage technology on a coal fired power station. Eon and Scottish Power are each leading the project.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many projects to deploy carbon capture and storage technology have expressed an interest to his Department in being part of the competition for funding for this technology. [303395]

**Joan Ruddock:** There were nine bids in the pre-qualification stage in the current demonstration competition launched in 2007.

### Climate Change

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what agreements were made at the G8 Summit in L'Aquila on energy and climate change related matters. [304467]

**Joan Ruddock:** The energy and climate change agreements made at the G8 summit in L'Aquila can be found in the G8 Communiqué entitled 'Responsible Leadership For A Sustainable Future', accessible electronically at:

http://www.g8italia2009.it/static/G8_Allegato/G8_Declaration_08_07_09_final,0.pdf

The relevant paragraphs are: 39-44, 60-93.

### Coal Authority: Cap Gemini

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value of contracts between the Coal Authority and Cap Gemini *(a)* was in each of the last five financial years and *(b)* is in 2009-10. [303389]

**Mr. Kidney:** Expenditure under the Coal Authority's contract with Capgemini over the last five financial years was as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 2.7 |
| 2005-06 | 2.6 |
| 2006-07 | 2.9 |
| 2007-08 | 2.7 |
| 2008-09 | 2.5 |

In 2009-10 contractual payments will be an estimated £2.6 million.

### Coal Authority: Information and Communications Technology

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 459-60W, on departmental ICT, which companies tendered to deliver the Coal Authority's Inferis IT project. [303502]

**Mr. Kidney:** Three companies tendered to deliver the Coal Authority's Inferis IT project. They were Capgemini, Mouchel Management Consulting Ltd. and SciSys UK Ltd.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 459-60W, on departmental ICT, if he will place in the Library a copy of the invitation to tender issued in respect of the Coal Authority's Inferis IT project. [303503]

**Mr. Kidney:** A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Buildings

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 456W, on departmental buildings, on what date the move of his Department's staff into 3 Whitehall Place was completed. [303506]

**Joan Ruddock:** The first phase of the moves of 973 Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) staff was completed on weekend 6-7 June 2009. 23 DECC staff currently remain in 1 Victoria street for business reasons and are expected to move into 3 Whitehall Place in April 2010.

### Energy: Housing

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what date he expects the first Pay as You Save pilot to commence. [303511]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Home Energy Pay As You Save pilot projects will be announced shortly. Work on the pilot projects will begin immediately following that announcement. We expect the first properties to receive measures in the new year.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households he expects to be included in the Pay as You Save pilots in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* subsequent years. [303513]

**Joan Ruddock:** We anticipate up to 500 households being involved in the Home Energy PAYS pilots, the actual number will depend on the level of investment required for each property. Retrofitting these properties will be undertaken over the financial year 2009-10 and 2010-11. The capital funding for the pilots ends in April 2011 and therefore no further households will be included after that date.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to announce the locations at which the first Pay as You Save pilots announced in Low Carbon Transition Plan will take place. [303514]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Home Energy Pay As You Save pilot projects will be announced shortly.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what role his Department plans for local authorities in the Pay as You Save pilots announced in the Low Carbon Transition Plan. [303515]

**Joan Ruddock:** One of the objectives for the Home Energy PAYS pilots is to test consumer attitudes and preferences to elements of the Pay As You Save model. We are looking for at least one of the projects to include the local authority as the billing route and the major delivery partner.

### Environment Protection: ICT

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the environment of adopting environmentally-friendly ICT policies across all Government departments. [304198]

**Ms Butler:** I have been asked to reply.

In September 2009 the Government published "Greening Government ICT—Efficient, Sustainable, Responsible" a one-year-on progress report which assesses the Government's Green ICT strategy. This was committed to by all Government Departments.

The report is available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media270265/1_year_on.pdf

### Fuel Poverty

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what requirement the Government puts on energy supply companies to include a benefits health check in their fuel poverty reduction programmes. [304497]

**Mr. Kidney:** There is no requirement in the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) or the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) for energy suppliers to provide benefit entitlement checks.

Warm Front is the Government's flagship programme for tackling fuel poverty in the private sector. All Warm Front applicants, whether initially eligible for the scheme or not, are offered a benefit entitlement check.

In 2008-09 Warm Front completed over 78,000 benefit entitlement checks. A new or an additional eligible benefit was identified in 45 per cent. of cases, resulting in an average weekly increase in household income of £31 per applicant.

Equivalent schemes in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are the responsibility of the devolved Administrations.

### Fuel Poverty: Health

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effects of fuel poverty on health. [304338]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Government recognise the effects of fuel poverty on health and has a strong package of measures to tackle the three root causes: poor energy efficiency, high fuel prices and low household income. It has not carried out a detailed assessment of the impacts of fuel poverty on health.

Since 2000, over £20 billion has been spent on a range of benefits and programmes to tackle fuel poverty. Improving the energy efficiency of a home is key to assisting those at risk from the cold and the Government have a number of established and new initiatives such as Warm Front, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and the Community Energy Savings Programme to help. We improve the income of vulnerable households through winter fuel and cold weather payments alongside the wider tax and benefit system and look at ways to cut the cost of energy that is supplied to them through a robust system of regulation aiming to protect all consumers. The recently introduced Energy Bill will set a framework for schemes that will require energy suppliers to provide a specified level of social price support (direct assistance with energy bills) to more of the most vulnerable customers.

Each year the Department of Health launches its "Keep Warm, Keep Well" campaign, offering important advice to older people on how to stay fit and healthy through the winter. The Department of Health's involvement in four major health related campaigns to target Warm Front grants increased referral numbers over the previous year by around 8 per cent. In addition, their seasonal flu vaccination programme is one of the most successful in Europe.

### KBR

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [303335]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department for Energy and Climate Change has not entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009.

### Local Government: Carbon Emissions

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions attributable to the Carbon Trust's local authority carbon management programme in each year of the programme. [303461]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Carbon Trust's public sector carbon management programme began in 2003-04 and I am informed by the trust that to date 236 local authorities have participated.

$CO_2$ emission reductions to date for each year of the programme are set out in the following table. The Carbon Trust inform me that they expect that implemented savings from the two most recent years, 2007-08 and 2008-09, will exceed the carbon savings implemented in earlier years but that there is a time lag in actual implementation which has resulted in the lower levels of savings made to date.

| *Financial Year* | *Sum of lifetime carbon savings implemented to date (t$CO_2$)* |
|---|---:|
| 2004-05 | 369,896 |
| 2005-06 | 271,198 |
| 2006-07 | 504,589 |
| 2007-08 | 359,649 |
| 2008-09 | 107,684 |
| Total | 1,613,016 |

### Renewable Energy: Developing Countries

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* Bangladesh, *(b)* Ethiopia, *(c)* India, *(d)* Kenya and *(e)* Nepal on technology transfer to enable those countries to harness renewable energy and to combat climate change. [304405]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government are pushing for an ambitious, effective and fair agreement at the 15th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen that will drive the development of climate technologies and their deployment in developing countries.

Ministers from the Department of Energy and Climate Change have met with Ministers from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Kenya and Nepal at international meetings throughout the last year to discuss these and related issues. The Secretary of State also visited India and Bangladesh in September, to see the impacts of climate change at first hand and meet with counterparts to discuss climate change and renewable energy.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan and Pakistan: Overseas Aid

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-54, on Afghanistan and Pakistan, what programmes funded by his Department are expected to *(a)* create 20,000 jobs in 2009 and *(b)* raise the incomes of 200,000 people by 2013; on what basis each estimate was arrived at; and if he will make a statement. [304323]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has recently launched a £36 million, four-year programme called Supporting Employment and Enterprise Development (SEED), which aims to create 20,000 jobs and raise the incomes of 200,000 people by 2013.

SEED expects to create 20,000 jobs as follows:

Jobs created from lending to small and medium sized enterprises: 2,000

Jobs created through vocational training: 3,000

Jobs created through support to the World Bank's Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP): 10,000

Jobs created through the new challenge fund: 5,000

SEED expects to raise the incomes of 200,000 people as follows:

Incomes improved through AREDP interventions: 100,000

Individuals who benefit from improved business practices and hence increased incomes as a result of challenge fund support: 100,000

## Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding the Government have provided *(a)* as aid and *(b)* for reconstruction in Afghanistan in each year since 2007. [304450]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Most Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Afghanistan is managed by the Department for International Development (DFID) and used to support the Afghan Government to deliver essential services such as health and education, promote economic growth, address the humanitarian situation, and undertake large infrastructure projects in Helmand province. DFID's budget was £108.9 million in 2007-08, £143 million in 2008-09, and £127.5 million in 2009-10.

In addition, a proportion of DFID's contributions to multilateral organisations were spent in Afghanistan. £33.1 million was spent this way in 2007-8. Figures for later years are not yet available.

DFID, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence(MOD) also have access to the Stabilisation Aid Fund (SAF), which seeks to promote political settlement and undertake reconstruction after conflict, particularly in Helmand province. The SAF budget was £28.4 million in 2007-08, £53 million in 2008-09, and £68 million this year.

Details of Gross Public Expenditure on development are published in "Statistics on International Development" and available online at

www.dfid.gov.uk

## Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support he is giving to the Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund to improve the energy infrastructure in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [304461]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Since 2003, the Department for International Development (DFID) has contributed £38.5 million to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund to support the National Solidarity Programme (NSP), which funds projects developed by local communities themselves. Approximately 17 per cent. of NSP funding has been used for small-scale energy infrastructure projects.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to improve public access to reliable electricity in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [304462]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is co-financing the rehabilitation of the Gereshk hydropower plant and associated transmission and distribution system in Helmand province. On completion, the project is expected to increase the supply and reliability of electricity to around 200,000 people.

Since 2003, DFID has also contributed £38.5 million to the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) which funds projects developed by local communities themselves. Approximately 17 per cent. of NSP funding has been used for small-scale energy infrastructure projects.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on the refurbishment of the Gereshk hydropower plant in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [304463]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The refurbishment of the Gereshk hydropower plant is proceeding according to schedule. The detailed design period is now complete. Through the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Helmand, a competitive tender for the upgrade of the 2.5 km access road to the plant has been won by a local Afghan contractor. We are also designing two police checkpoints to be positioned along the access road to improve site security.

The next step is to conclude co-financing arrangements with our investment partners, the Asian Development Bank and the Embassy of Denmark. This agreement will be followed in early 2010 by procurement for civil, mechanical and electrical contracts.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in the provision of electricity networks and supply throughout Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [304464]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Information relating to progress made in the provision of electricity networks and supply throughout Afghanistan is published on the website of the Afghan Energy Information Center (AIEC) at:

http://www.afghaneic.org/index.html

## Africa: Overseas Aid

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what role his Department is playing in the implementation of the Nile Basin Initiative. [303799]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for International Development (DFID) plays an active role in support of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) along with the World Bank and other development partners. We have contributed £13.7 million. We separately provide finance to help civil society organisations engage with the initiative through the Nile Basin Discourse.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301188]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement about the cost of ministerial cars made by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark) on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 79-80WS.

For the cost of cars to officials, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark) on 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 762W.

### Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303943]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** All consultants who require access to a Department for International Development (DFID) office, whether they are providing consultancy or other services, are issued with a temporary security pass after security clearance procedures have been completed. Those contractors providing services without a need to work in a DFID office are not issued a security pass. Disaggregating the number of security passes issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months would incur disproportionate costs.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Alternative Curriculum

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps are being taken to ensure that local authorities have information about third sector providers of alternative curriculum provision for excluded children or those at risk of exclusion; and if he will make a statement. [301945]

**Mr. Coaker:** Since the Department published the "Back on Track" White Paper in May 2008, we have carried out a determined programme of work to improve the quality of alternative provision and access to it.

In October 2008, we published guidance on commissioning alternative provision, covering how local authorities and schools can identify providers able to meet the needs of pupils who require alternative provision. At the same time, we launched an online directory of alternative providers across England which gives local authorities and schools ready access to information on almost 400 providers. The directory had approximately 29,700 hits between 1 January 2009 and 23 November 2009.

The Department has also run trade fairs for alternative providers across England, giving them the opportunity to inform potential commissioners of their services. We have also established pilots to explore a range of innovative ways of delivering alternative provision, supported by up to £26.5 million over 2008-11. Of these 12 pilots, nine involve third sector providers.

### Building Schools for the Future Programme: Asbestos

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in the Building Schools for the Future programme have had an asbestos survey as part of their redevelopment; in how many such schools was asbestos found; and from how many such schools asbestos was removed. [304199]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information on the number of schools in the Building Schools for the Future programme that have had an asbestos survey; whether asbestos was found; and whether it was removed is not held centrally. Local authorities are responsible for managing the process and hold this information.

### Children: Databases

**Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate has been made of the amount of savings in practitioner time as a result of the introduction of ContactPoint. [304728]

**Dawn Primarolo:** A principal benefit of ContactPoint will be freed up unproductive time, previously spent by frontline staff in trying to identify and then contact other practitioners who are involved with a child. We estimate conservatively that ContactPoint will save five million practitioner hours, equivalent to £88 million a year, once all projected users are engaged. This means that practitioners can spend more time working with children and families and less time on administration activities.

**Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much is expected to be spent on the ContactPoint directory in each of the five years from June 2010. [304729]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The expected expenditure on ContactPoint in each of the next five years from June 2010 is as follows:

*£ million*

| | *Set up* | *Operating* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| June 2010 to March 2011 | 21.7 | 29.2 | 50.9 |
| April 2011 to March 2012 | 2.4 | 40.6 | 43.0 |
| April 2012 to March 2013 | 0.0 | 41.0 | 41.0 |
| April 2013 to March 2014 | 0.0 | 41.0 | 41.0 |
| April 2014 to March 2015 | 0.0 | 41.0 | 41.0 |
| April 2015 to May 2015 | 0.0 | 10.3 | 10.3 |
| Total | 24.1 | 203.1 | 227.2 |

### Citizenship and History: Secondary Education

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils at maintained mainstream schools at the end of Key Stage 4 took examinations in *(a)* citizenship but not history, *(b)* history but not citizenship, *(c)* citizenship and history and *(d)* neither history nor citizenship in each of the last five years. [301040]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information required is given in the following table.

The figures relate to entries in full GCSE history and the GCSE short course in citizenship. A full GCSE in citizenship course only started in September 2009 and information on entries to this course are not yet available.

| | *Pupils entered into GCSE short course in citizenship only* | | *Pupils entered into GCSE full course in history only* | | *Pupils entered into both* | | *Pupils entered for neither* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 2005 | 23,657 | 4.1 | 169,164 | 29.4 | 11,563 | 2.0 | 370,298 | 64.4 |
| 2006 | 33,332 | 5.7 | 167,070 | 28.6 | 16,988 | 2.9 | 366,979 | 62.8 |
| 2007 | 44,859 | 7.6 | 158,828 | 26.9 | 21,347 | 3.6 | 365,754 | 61.9 |
| 2008 | 57,382 | 9.8 | 154,189 | 26.2 | 26,015 | 4.4 | 350,633 | 59.6 |
| 2009 | 61,981 | 10.9 | 145,979 | 25.7 | 28,433 | 5.0 | 332,394 | 58.4 |

*Note:*
Figures for 2009 are provisional.
*Source:*
Achievement and Attainment Tables data.

Figures relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained mainstream schools (includes academies and CTCs).

### Departmental Advertising

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department's predecessor spent on advertising in 2006-07; how much his Department has so spent in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [302319]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The media total for advertising in 2006-07 was £6,573,885. In 2009-10 so far, the spend to date has been £4,260,609. This information was attained from the Central Office of Information where the information is centrally held.

### Departmental Legal Costs

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of legal (i) representation and (ii) advice sought by his Department and its agencies in each year since May 1997. [300371]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The purpose of legal representation is to ensure that the Secretary of State is represented before a court or tribunal where a decision is under challenge. The purpose of legal advice is to enable the Department to operate effectively within the law and develop legislation to deliver its policies, minimising legal risk and achieving best legal outcomes.

There are no centrally held figures for the costs of legal representation in the Department for Children, Schools and Families, and its predecessors, the Department for Education and Employment, and the Department for Education and Skills.

### Departmental Legislation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [303248]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Primary legislation sponsored by the Department for Children, Schools and Families since 1 May 2008 has created and abolished a number of criminal offences. These are detailed in the following table:

| *Legislative reference* | *Offence* |
|---|---|
| *(a) Criminal offences abolished* | |
| *Education and Skills Act 2008* | |
| Schedule 2 | Repeals offence of wilfully obstructing an inspection in section 118 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 |
| Schedule 2 | Repeals offence of disclosing social security information in section 119 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 |
| Schedules 1 and 2 | Abolishes the offence in section 159 of the Education Act 2002 of conducting an unregistered independent school in relation to independent schools in England only |
| Schedules 1 and 2 | Repeals section 162B of the Education Act 2002 (including the offence to intentionally obstruct a person in the exercise of his functions in relation to an inspection under that section) |
| Schedules 1 and 2 | Abolishes the offence in section 164 of the Education Act 2002 of obstructing a person in the exercise of his functions in relation to an inspection under that section (in relation to independent schools in England only) |
| Schedules 1 and 2 | Abolishes the offence in section 165 of the Education Act 2002 of failing to comply with an order under that section in relation to independent schools in England only |

| *Legislative reference* | *Offence* |
|---|---|
| Schedules 1 and 2 | Abolishes the offence in section 167 of the Education Act 2002 of failing to comply with an order under that section in relation to independent schools in England only |
| *Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009* | |
| Schedule 16 | Repeals offence of disclosing social security information in section 15 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 |
| *(b) Criminal offences created* | |
| *Children and Young Persons Act 2008* | |
| Section 26 | Offence of failing to take the steps specified in a compliance notice within the period so specified under section 22A(4) of the Care Standards Act 2000 |
| *Education and Skills Act 2008* | |
| Section 15 | Offence to disclose social security information otherwise than in the circumstances specified in section 15. |
| Section 51 | Offence for a person to fail to comply with the requirements of an attendance notice |
| Section 75 | Offence for anyone to wilfully obstruct a person in carrying out, or participating in an inspection of connexions services provided under s68 and 74. |
| Section 76 | Offence to disclose social security information otherwise than in the circumstances specified in that section. (Offence amended by section 254 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009). |
| Section 90 | Offence for a person to disclose information otherwise than for a purpose within sections 87 or 88 where disclosure reveals identity of a person |
| Section 96 | Offence for a person to conduct an independent educational institution in England unless it is registered. |
| Section 97 | Offence to intentionally obstruct a person in the exercise of the person's functions in relation to an inspection under that section |
| Section 110 | Offence to intentionally obstruct a person in the exercise of the person's function in relation to an inspection under that section. |
| Section 118 | Failure of a proprietor of an independent educational institution to comply with a relevant restriction imposed by the Secretary of State under section 116. |
| Section 121 | Failure of a proprietor of an independent educational institution to comply with a relevant restriction imposed by an order of a justice of the peace under section 120 |
| Section 127 | Failure of a proprietor of an independent educational institution to comply with a relevant restriction imposed by the Tribunal under sections 124, 125 or 126. |
| *Welfare Reform Act 2009* | |
| Schedule 6 | Extends section 36 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 regarding the failure to answer any question put by the registrar in relation to the particulars required to be registered, or failure to comply with any requirement of the registrar, to include questions and requirements made by regulations under sections 2C, 2D, 2E, 10B or 10C of that Act |
| Schedule 6 | Refusal or failure (without reasonable excuse) to do anything within a particular time which is required by regulations under sections 2C, 2D, 2E, 10B or 10C of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. |
| Schedule 6 | Extends section 4 of the Perjury Act 1911 regarding the provision of false statements etc. as to births or deaths. |
| *Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009* | |
| Section 199 | Inserts Part 3A into the Childcare Act 2006. Offence for a person to intentionally obstruct a person from exercising a power under section 98D. Section 98D provides a power for Chief Inspectors to enter Children's centres. |
| Section 210 | Offence to obstruct a Local Commissioner or those assisting him in the performance of his functions under Chapter 2 |

## Family and Parent Institute: Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much money his Department and its predecessors have spent on supporting the Family and Parent Institute in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [304059]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Family and Parenting Institute have a long-standing relationship with the Department. Since 2005, the Family and Parenting Institute have received funding support through a strategic grant from The Strengthening Families (SFG) Grant programme (2005/06) and The Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Grant programme (2006/07 to 2009/10). The CYPF is a national programme to fund work by the third sector to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005/06 | 783,000 |
| 2006/07 | 850,000 |
| 2007/08 | 935,000 |
| 2008/09 | 1,038,000 |
| 2009/10 | 1,115,000 |

## GCSE

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which secondary schools are in each decile of the numbers of students achieving five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in the latest period for which figures are available. [301635]

**Mr. Coaker:** The request is essentially for a list of all English secondary schools ordered into deciles. The main way school level information is published is in the secondary school achievement and attainment tables on the Department's website at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/schools_08.shtml

A user-friendly Excel version of school level data, from which rankings and deciles of all schools can be derived, has also been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The 2009 secondary school achievement and attainment tables will be published in January 2010.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 16-year-olds did not achieve five GCSEs at grades A* to C in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [303141]

**Mr. Coaker:** The following table gives the percentage of pupils, in their last year of compulsory education who did not gain five or more GCSEs at A*-C and equivalent.

*Percentage of pupils[1] not gaining five or more GCSE at A*-C and equivalent, 2007/08*

| *Area* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| England and Wales[2] | 35.1 |
| England[2] | 34.7 |
| North East[3] | 33.6 |
| Middlesbrough and South East Cleveland[3] | 40.8 |

[1] In England pupils at the end of key stage 4, in Wales pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year.

[2] All schools.

[3] Maintained schools only.

## GCSE: Young Offenders

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of females of school age in custody gained five GCSEs at grade A* to C in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [301632]

**Mr. Coaker:** No females aged under 18 in HM Prison Service Young Offender Institutions achieved a GCSE at grade A* to C while in custody in the 2007/08 academic year.

The data above refer only to achievements that were secured by young females who took the examination while they were in custody. Those who were released before the examination date may have continued study and taken examinations in the community.

Some young people in young offender institutions are still registered at schools and colleges in the community and therefore any GCSEs that they achieve while in custody will be reflected in the achievement figures of their respective school or college.

The female population aged under 18 in HM Prison Service Young Offender Institutions was on average 65 females under 18 in custody in 2006/07 and an average of 65 in 2007/08.

HM Prison Service Young Offender Institutions make up part of the custodial estate for under-18s and achievements of GCSEs in secure children's homes, secure training centres, or private prisons are not recorded centrally.

## Home Education

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children of school age are registered as receiving home education in each education authority in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* England. [304661]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** There are no registration arrangements for children receiving home education in England so we do not hold this information. The total number of electively home educated children known to the 74 local authorities that provided a response to Graham Badman's supplementary data request in September can be found at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/etc/independentreviewofhomeeducation/irhomeeducation/

Home education in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

## National Curriculum Tests

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to the public purse of standard assessment tests was in each of the last five years. [303115]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency's (QCDA) estimates of the costs of delivering the national curriculum tests for Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 in each of the last five years are as follows:-

| | *£ thousand* |
|---|---|
| | *Total cost of NCT* |
| 2008-09 | 21,755 |
| 2007-08 | 50,570 |
| 2006-07 | 51,559 |
| 2005-06 | 51,743 |
| 2004-05 | 43,828 |

Statutory Key Stage 3 national curriculum tests have been discontinued and were not administered in 2009. Costs quoted for the 2008-09 financial year are net of the £19,500,000.00 cash settlement received by QCDA, following termination of the test operations contract with ETS Global BV (ETS) in 2008.

## Pupil Exclusions

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of children who have been excluded or at risk of exclusion from school who are subsequently classified as not in education, employment or training; and if he will make a statement; [301872]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the causes of exclusion of children from school; what recent steps his Department has taken as a consequence of that assessment; and if he will make a statement. [301873]

**Mr. Coaker:** We accept that a significant minority of excluded pupils can go on to be not in education, employment or training (NEET). We also know that exclusions are now at their lowest ever level since 1997/98, with permanent exclusions dropping 6.4 per cent. between 2006/07 and 2007/08.

We support heads when taking the tough decision to exclude. It is right that head teachers should use their powers to exclude disruptive pupils when this is in the interests of other pupils. However, our focus must be on preventing bad behaviour from degenerating to the point where exclusion—and particularly permanent exclusion—is necessary.

Data on school exclusion are collected through the school census and published annually. The latest data were published as SFR 18/2009 "Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2007/08" which can be accessed at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml

Table 9 gives a breakdown of the reasons for exclusion. Persistent disruptive behaviour was the most common reason for exclusion, representing 30.9 per cent. of permanent exclusion and 23.2 per cent. of fixed period exclusion.

Good behaviour is fundamental to school standards, and Ofsted recently reported (24 November) that 80 per cent. of secondary schools are good or outstanding on behaviour, up from 72 per cent. in 2007/08. In September my Department launched a Behaviour Challenge with an ambition that, by 2012, all schools will have a good or outstanding Ofsted rating on behaviour or be on track to achieve one. Support and challenge will be provided to schools through local authorities, the National Strategies, and School Improvement Partners. We have also asked National Strategies colleagues to support local authorities with high exclusion rates, and high rates of multiple fixed period exclusion, to help their schools increase the use of early intervention to improve behaviour and minimise the need for exclusion.

We are making all 16 and 17-year-olds an offer of suitable place in learning through the September Guarantee. My Department has asked local authorities to focus in particular on those who are disengaged from education or missing school. The 14-19 curriculum reforms are creating a range of different learning opportunities suit all young people, including those who need help to re-engage in learning. Connexions services provide tailored support and advice, both on accessing education, employment or training, and on personal issues.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced on 18 November plans to extend the guarantee to any 16 and 17-year-old who is not in education, employment or training (NEET) in January. This will give those who were not ready to engage in learning in September, or who have since left, a further opportunity to get the skills they need to succeed.

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act, 2009 introduced tough statutory disciplinary powers to strengthen teachers' rights to punish bad behaviour in and out of the classroom. These include a strong statutory power to punish pupils in school and en route to and from school; a statutory power to reasonably confiscate mobiles or music players used disruptively; and reaffirming powers to use physical force to break up fights and restrain pupils. The Act also introduced a duty for schools to work together in partnership to improve behaviour and reduce absence.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average length of a fixed-period exclusion for pupils from *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* all schools was in the last 12 months. [304893]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The latest available data on the average length of fixed period exclusions for the 2007/08 academic year are published at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml Table 5.

Data for 2008/09 are expected to be published in July 2010.

## Pupils: Abuse

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidelines his Department provides to teachers who suspect abuse or maltreatment of a pupil on action to be taken in such circumstances. [304404]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Guidelines on the actions that anyone, including a teacher, should take if they have concerns about abuse or maltreatment of a child are set out in "What to do if you are Worried a Child is being Abused." This practice guidance tells people about the procedures to follow when passing on concerns and what will then happen. Guidance on the wider responsibilities of local authorities and governing bodies of schools and FE colleges in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is contained in "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education."

## Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the average annual cost of educating a secondary school child in a pupil referral unit in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority area. [301871]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department published the White Paper "Back on Track" in May 2008 setting out proposals to transform the quality of alternative provision, including pupil referral units. At that time, we estimated a cost of around £15,000 a year for a full-time placement in a pupil referral unit. Pupil numbers in pupil referral units can be volatile and the calculation was based on pupil numbers at a fixed point in time. This may not be fully representative of the average number of pupils over a year.

We have not made any further estimates since that time, and the figure has not been broken down by local authority area. The figure is likely to vary considerably between different local authority areas.

### Pupils: Weapons

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what record his Department maintains relating to the number of pupils who, following a search, were found to be in the possession of *(a)* a knife, *(b)* another weapon and *(c)* drugs on school premises; [303561]

(2) how many pupils in England were found to be in the possession of *(a)* a weapon and *(b)* drugs on school premises in each of the last three years. [303562]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department does not record the number of pupils found to be in possession of a knife, other weapon, or drugs, whether following a search or otherwise.

In 2007 we gave head teachers the power to search, without consent, any pupil suspected of carrying a knife or other offensive weapon. Schools can also screen pupils at random or search with consent. However, we do not require schools to tell us when such an article has been found. They should inform the police, to whom they must pass the article.

We have recently extended the power to search without consent so that schools can search pupils without consent for illegal drugs (and for alcohol and stolen property) with effect from September 2010.

### Schools: Finance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average funding per capita was for *(a)* urban areas and *(b)* rural areas under dedicated schools grant in the latest period for which figures are available. [301516]

**Mr. Coaker:** The latest figures available are shown in the following table below (2007-08). Figures for 2008-09 are still to be collected and validated by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

*Combined local authority and school-based expenditure per pupil,[1] 2007-08: Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities in England as at 23 November 2009[2, 3]*

| | Total combined LEA and school-based expenditure[1] (£ per pupil) |
|---|---|
| England | 5,050 |
| Predominantly urban local authorities[2] | 5,040 |
| Predominantly rural local authorities[2] | 5,110 |

1. Combined local authority and school-based expenditure includes all expenditure on the education of children in local authority maintained establishments and pupils educated by the authority other than in maintained establishments. This includes both school-based expenditure and all elements of central LA expenditure except youth and community and capital expenditure from revenue (CERA). Certain elements of central local authority expenditure cannot be attributed to a particular phase of education and consequently a sector breakdown is not available. Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under-5s funded by the authority and being educated in private settings, pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and any other local authority maintained pupils. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

2. The classification of local authorities into those which are predominately urban and predominately rural is based upon The Rural and Urban Area Classification (2004) sponsored by the Countryside Agency (CA), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the Welsh Assembly Government. Predominantly rural local authorities are classified as those which consist of more than 50 per cent. rural Output Areas.

3. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

### Schools: Herefordshire

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was provided per child under the dedicated schools grant in Herefordshire in 2009-10. [301515]

**Mr. Coaker:** The guaranteed funding per pupil for Herefordshire for 2009-10 is £3,830. The amount of dedicated schools grant that local authorities receive is dependent on the number of pupils on roll. Herefordshire has received just over £87 million for 2009-10.

### Schools: Rural Areas

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding is provided towards other educational programmes for rural areas other than through the dedicated schools grant. [301517]

**Mr. Coaker:** Local authorities are responsible for the distribution of funding (including funding provided through the dedicated schools grant (DSG)) to schools in their area. The overall DSG settlement for 2009-10 is £29.6 billion and of this settlement £194.87 million is notionally for sparsity. This funding is allocated to rural authorities in recognition that they need small schools which are more expensive to run. The Department does not provide additional education funding outside of the DSG specifically for rural areas.

### Schools: Standards

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools were given notices to improve by Ofsted in *(a)* September, *(b)* October, *(c)* November and *(d)* December 2008. [304660]

**Mr. Coaker:** The following table gives the requested information:

*Schools given a notice to improve by Ofsted during autumn term 2008*

| *2008* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| September | 11 |
| October | 16 |
| November | 18 |
| December | 7 |
| Total for term | 52 |

### Secondary Education: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who is responsible for the implementation in Gloucestershire of the recommendations made in the report of the Badman review of secondary education. [301350]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** It is the responsibility of Gloucestershire local authority to implement the recommendations made in the report of the Badman review of the National Challenge.

### Secondary Education: Outdoor Education

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what research his Department has undertaken into a link between the uptake of fieldwork in secondary schools and the number of post-16 students taking science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects; [301438]

(2) what steps he is taking to increase the uptake of fieldwork by pupils in secondary schools. [301441]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department has not commissioned research to examine the link between take up of fieldwork in secondary schools and the number of post-16 students taking science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects.

The Government are doing much to increase the take up of fieldwork by pupils in secondary schools. This includes:

Contracting with the Association for Science Education to run a support programme to improve the use of practical work in science across secondary schools.

Sending Practical Work in Science booklets to all secondary schools which include good examples of fieldwork activity.

Continuing to fund the National Network of Science Learning Centres to provide continuing professional development opportunities for teachers including those that support the use of fieldwork across all stage of the curriculum.

Publishing the STEM directory of science enhancement and enrichment activities which lists a vast range of activities, including fieldwork related ones, that schools can access to enliven science teaching and learning.

Developing online resources and guidance through Government funding for the Action Plan for Geography, which is managed by the Royal Geographical Society and the Geographical Association to help teachers with fieldwork. These are available on the Geography Teaching Today website which includes a virtual fieldwork and local learning centre to help teachers make the most of geography in their local areas. This includes expert advice and planning on embedding fieldwork in the curriculum.

The Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto which was launched in November 2006 and aims to provide all young people with quality learning experiences outside the classroom covering the whole curriculum. This is made explicit in the new secondary curriculum which also provides that practical and enquiry skills are something that pupils need to learn to make progress in their science and geography learning.

### Teachers: Pay

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of teachers and teaching staff in maintained schools earn more than £50,000 per annum. [300811]

**Mr. Coaker:** In March 2008, an estimated 30,000 full-time qualified teachers employed in local authority maintained schools in England and Wales earned £50,000 or more per annum. This is 8 per cent. of the total number.

The source of the salary information is the Database of Teacher Records (DTR) and is provisional. Overall teacher numbers from the Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g and the Welsh Stats 3 survey were apportioned by the information from the DTR to provide the estimate of the numbers of teachers receiving these salaries.

### Teachers: South East

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* classroom assistants were employed in each local education authority area in the South East in each year since 1997. [301280]

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* classroom assistants were employed in maintained schools in each local authority in the South East in each year since 1997. [301353]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested for 1997, 2001 to 2009 is published in tables 19 and 26 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including Local Authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)" published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables19to27_Vals.xls

The information requested for 1998 to 2000 is published in tables 18 and 24 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including pupil:teacher ratios and pupil:adult ratios), January 2006 (Revised)" published on 28 September 2006. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000681/index.shtml

### Teachers: Training

**Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of schools funding which is retained by schools for the professional development of teachers. [301558]

**Mr. Coaker:** Funding for the continual professional development (CPD) of teachers is included within school's delegated budgets for the whole work force. It is for schools to determine how to spend this based on individual teacher needs, identified and agreed through the performance management process, and the school's own development/improvement priorities.

However, Section 52 outturn data—which are the Department's source of information on expenditure across all local authority maintained schools—suggest that in the financial year 2007-08 maintained schools in England spent £180 million from delegated budgets on development and training for staff in schools; representing around 0.5 per cent. of total expenditure in schools. This includes expenditure on:

- development and training costs for all staff (directly and not directly employed) at the school;
- cost of all in-service training courses and other development opportunities; and
- cost of equipment and resources to provide in service training.

### Teenage Pregnancy

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many girls aged 13 to 17 years became pregnant in each local authority area in 2007. [304743]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The latest (2007) data for each top-tier local authority are available on the 'Every Child Matters' website at the following link:

> http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/healthandwellbeing/teenagepregnancy/statistics/

This provides the number and rate of conceptions and the proportion of conceptions that resulted in an abortion. The final column also shows the percentage change in the local conception rate between 1998 (the baseline year for the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy) and 2007.

At a national level, there has been a 10.5 per cent. fall in the teenage conception rate over this period. Within this decline in teenage conceptions overall, there has been a 23.3 per cent. decline in teenage births.

Although annual data for 2008 are not yet available, ONS has published quarterly conception data for the first three quarters of 2008. This shows a further reduction in the under 18 conception rate in each quarter compared to the corresponding quarters in 2007.

### Youth Services: Greater London

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* net expenditure on youth services, *(b)* local education authority net expenditure on youth services and *(c)* per pupil average spend on youth services or nearest equivalent was in each London borough in 1999-2000. [304523]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government do not set a budget for spending on youth services. Local authorities decide what should be the expenditure, taking into account Government policy and local needs. The following table shows, for each London borough, the net expenditure and the net revenue expenditure on youth services and the revenue expenditure per head of the 14 to 19-year-old population in 1999-2000.

*The Education (Outturn Statements) (England) Regulations LA based net expenditure on youth services[1] per head of population (aged 14-19)[2] in 1999-2000*

*The Education (Outturn Statements) (England) Regulations LA based net expenditure on youth services[1] per head of population (aged 14-19)[2] in 1999-2000*

| | *Net current expenditure on youth services* | *Net revenue expenditure on youth services* | *Average expenditure per head of population (aged 14-19)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Inner London* | | | |
| Camden | 2,543,041 | 2,298,352 | 193 |
| City of London | 222,581 | 190,585 | 727 |
| Hackney | 1,660,942 | 0 | 0 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1,519,453 | 981,300 | 121 |
| Harringey | 1,290,145 | 1,464,000 | 96 |
| Islington | 5,302,881 | 5,260,553 | 474 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 3,920,969 | 3,860,332 | 586 |
| Lambeth | 1,835,227 | 1,521,800 | 92 |
| Lewisham | 2,199,248 | 2,612,320 | 152 |
| Newham | 1,768,544 | 1,748,842 | 80 |
| Southwark | 2,517,555 | 2,064,442 | 123 |
| Tower Hamlets | 3,607,612 | 3,615,225 | 218 |
| Wandsworth | 2,802,407 | 0 | 0 |
| Westminster | 1,808,324 | 1,802,335 | 187 |
| *Outer London* | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 1,171,925 | 1,003,385 | 80 |
| Barnet | 2,384,896 | 2,241,366 | 104 |
| Bexley | 1,619,046 | 1,464,000 | 95 |
| Brent | 2,226,000 | 2,208,000 | 112 |
| Bromley | 1,165,922 | 1,133,371 | 61 |
| Croydon | 2,074,000 | 2,279,962 | 94 |
| Ealing | 1,178,544 | 1,005,747 | 48 |
| Enfield | 997,018 | 943,134 | 48 |
| Greenwich | 2,465,916 | 2,144,484 | 133 |
| Harrow | 768,621 | 698,363 | 43 |
| Havering | 1,348,459 | 1,284,242 | 79 |
| Hillingdon | 1,467,117 | 1,408,104 | 81 |
| Hounslow | 940,142 | 760,676 | 48 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 633,768 | 697 | 0 |
| Merton | 728,924 | 550,609 | 49 |
| Redbridge | 1,502,790 | 1,382,162 | 77 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 706,826 | 702,730 | 72 |
| Sutton | 1,134,353 | 1,326,480 | 110 |
| Waltham Forest | 1,985,532 | 1,856,734 | 115 |

*Notes:*

1. Youth service expenditure includes the following items: employees; staff training; premises-related expenditure; transport related expenditure; supplies and services; third party payments; support services; youth work costs at residential and non-residential youth centres; youth work costs at activity at outdoor and urban studies centres; grant funding to the voluntary sector for youth work.

2. Population of 14 to 19-year-olds is based on ONS mid-year estimates for each local authority. A weighting of 3/4-1/4 has been given to the 2007 and 2008 figures in order to give an estimate for the financial year.

3. Data are provided as reported by the Las in the 1999-2000 outturn exercise. Values of zero for Wandsworth and Hackney LA may be because of discrepancies in the data and this should be acknowledged in any further use of the data. All data matches that published for the 1999-2000 outturn exercise.

*Source:*

Data are taken from the 1999-2000 outturn exercise

## HEALTH

### Accident and Emergency Departments

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days each hospital started at a *(a)* level three, *(b)* level four and *(c)* level five bed state in accident and emergency in each of the last five years; and how many days each hospital issued a red alert concerning accident and emergency in each of the last five years. [304245]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** This information is not collected centrally. Bed capacity management systems are a matter for local trusts. There is no national definition of particular bed states nor of particular colour alerts.

### Ambulance Services: Crimes of Violence

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many physical assaults against staff of ambulance trusts serving the South East Region were reported in each county in each of the last three years. [304757]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Since 2004-05, the number of physical assaults against staff reported by national health service bodies in England has been collected annually by the NHS Security Management Service (SMS).

The numbers of physical assaults against NHS staff reported by the South Central Ambulance Service NHS trust and the South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS trust in the years 2006-07 to 2008-09 are shown in the following table.

| | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|
| South Central Ambulance Service NHS trust | 38 | 50 | 35 |
| South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS trust | 81 | 69 | 107 |

The NHS SMS can assist employers through guidance on assessing risks and acting to protect staff from assaults and, where incidents do occur, on taking action against offenders. The NHS SMS also works with stakeholders, including the Social Partnership Forum, to promote the safety and security of NHS staff.

### Arthritis: Health Services

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that the NHS Indicators for Quality Improvement include greater reference to the treatment of musculoskeletal disorders, with reference to the recommendations of the National Audit Office report on Service for People with rheumatoid arthritis. [304420]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department has asked the National Quality Board to advise on priorities for quality indicator development across national health service services and they will be reporting back in 2010. Indicators for treatment of musculoskeletal conditions will be considered as part of that process.

### Biofuels: Air Pollution

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 672W, on biofuels: air pollution, if he will estimate the levels of *(a)* mortality and *(b)* morbidity arising from additional emissions of (i) between 1.7 and 6.3 kt of fine particles and (ii) between 1.3 and 7.6 kt of coarser particles consequent upon achieving the biomass targets set out in the renewable energy strategy. [301637]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

The health impacts on air quality of the increase in particle emissions referred to in the question were converted to monetary values, using advice from the Department of Health on the health effects of particles and economic methodologies agreed by the Interdepartmental Group on Costs and Benefits. The impacts of fine and coarse particles were not assessed individually.

The impacts on morbidity resulting from the uptake of biomass as a renewable energy source were also not assessed during the analyses.

The available estimates of the number of life years lost in 2020 from the impact on air quality of the increased biomass combustion was estimated to be 340,000 for an uptake of 38 TWh of biomass with appliances with the very lowest emission on the market emitting 1.3 kt of coarse particles and 1,300,000 for medium quality units representing what is typical of the currently available units emitting annually 7.6 kt of coarse particles.

The results presented above are for the whole of the UK and are given in their raw output form. The analysis is subject to considerable uncertainty in the underlying assumptions.

### Care Homes: Patients' Rights

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding under the Dignity in Care campaign each local authority has received; which care homes in each local authority area were awarded extra funding from this allocation to improve dignity; how much each such home received; what the funding was proposed to be used for in each case; and what monitoring was undertaken to ensure the funding was spent on the objectives of the campaign. [304244]

**Phil Hope:** As part of the Dignity in Care campaign, local authorities received a £67.725 million capital grant for improving the care home environment for older people in 2007-08. Local Authority Circular (2006) 16 set out how this one-off capital grant was to be allocated and provided conditions for its use. A copy has been placed in the Library.

The grant was made available to local authorities, for distribution to homes with whom they hold a contract, and in which a majority of patients are over 65 years of age. All arrangements for publicising the grant, deciding how to allocate the money and informing applicants of the outcome were made locally.

Requests for information on homes benefiting from these grants should be made to the relevant local authorities. Detailed information is not held centrally by the Department.

### Complementary Medicine: Regulation

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's response to its consultation on the statutory regulation of practitioners of acupuncture, herbal medicine, traditional Chinese medicine and other traditional medicine systems practised in the UK. [304008]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has received a large number of responses to the recent consultation on the statutory regulation of practitioners of acupuncture, herbal medicine, traditional Chinese medicine and other traditional medicine systems practised in the United Kingdom. Once these have been analysed, the Department will publish its response. This is not expected to be before summer 2010.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301174]

**Phil Hope:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement about the cost of ministerial cars made by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark) on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 79-80WS.

For the cost of cars to officials, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark) on 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 762W.

### Departmental Scientists

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 653W, on departmental scientists, how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts work at (i) Richmond House, (ii) Quarry House and (iii) other of his Department's offices. [304452]

**Phil Hope:** Information about the number of scientific advisers and civil servants in scientific posts is not held centrally, so it is not possible to give an accurate figure by building.

### Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303945]

**Phil Hope:** In the period from 1 December 2008 to 30 November 2009, there were 234 new contractor records on the Department's Business Management System. In the same period, there were 115 new consultant records.

A security pass cannot be issued without a suitable record on the Department's Business Management System.

### Dr. Foster

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department have met Dr. Foster Ltd in the last 12 months. [304702]

**Phil Hope:** This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Eyesight: Testing

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many eye tests were funded by the public purse in each region in each of the last two years; and what percentage of those who had eye tests subsequently received (i) spectacles for the first time and (ii) replacement or repairs of spectacles funded by the public purse. [303574]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of sight tests paid for by the national health service in England, is provided in Table 1 of the 'General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales—Year ending 31 March 2009' report. Information is provided for the years ending 31 March, 2000 to 31 March 2009.

Sight test information by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT) level for the years 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2009 is available in Table B1 of Annex C of the above report.

The number of those who receive spectacles for the first time is not collected centrally.

Table 9 of this report shows the number of vouchers for spectacles or contact lenses paid for by the NHS in England for the years ending 31 March 2000 to 2009.

Table 15 of the above report shows the number of items for repair or replacement, in England, for the years ending 31 March 2000 to 2009.

Information on the numbers of vouchers and the numbers of items for repair or replacement by SHA and by PCT for the years ending 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2009 is available in Tables B1 of Annex D and A1 of Annex E of the above report.

This report, published on 19 August 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is available online at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/eye-care/general-ophthalmic-services:-activity-statistics-for-england-and-wales-year-ending-31-march-2009

All the reports have been published by The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

### Forensic Science: Offences Against Children

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what clinical and governance standards apply to health facilities used to obtain forensic evidence from children subject to sexual assault in order to assist in the potential prosecution of criminal offences. [302644]

**Ann Keen:** Governance arrangements for health facilities used to obtain forensic evidence from children subject to sexual assault will be for local determination and should be in keeping with national guidance on safeguarding children.

The Department of Health, the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers published joint guidance in October 2009 which sets out the minimum elements essential for providing high quality Sexual Assault Referral Centres for adults and children who are victims of sexual assault. This covers forensic medical examination.

Clinical standards, 'Physical Signs of Child Sexual Abuse—An Evidence Based Review and Guidance for Best Practice', was published by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in March 2008. The standards describe physical signs of sexual abuse, the strength of evidence of those signs being due to sexual abuse and issues for clinical practice. Good practice in history taking, obtaining consent, examination technique, photo documentation, forensic sampling and testing for sexually transmitted diseases is described.

In addition, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published clinical guidelines in July 2009 on how to recognise child maltreatment which includes how to recognise signs of sexual abuse.

### Health Professions: Manpower

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GPs, *(b)* dentists, *(c)* optometrists and *(d)* pharmacies there were in each region in each of the last two years; and how many this equated to per 100,000 resident population in each category. [303576]

**Ann Keen:** The numbers of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 resident population are available as at 30 September 2007 and 2008, for England and by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT).

Data as at 30 September 2007 are available in the 'General and Personal Medical Services. Detailed Results' report. This report, published on 14 March 2008, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/nhs-staff-numbers/nhs-staff-1997--2007-general-practice

Data are contained in the table 'Selected Statistics by Primary Care Trusts: England':

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/nhsstaff2007/gp/PCT%20Level.xls

Data as at 30 September 2008 are available in the 'General and Personal Medical Services. Detailed Results'. Data are contained in the table 'Selected Statistics by Primary Care Trusts: England'. This report, published on 25 March 2009, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/nhs-staff-numbers/nhs-staff-1998--2008-general-practice

Data are contained in the table 'Selected Statistics by Primary Care Trusts: England':

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/nhsstaff2008/gp/2008%20Detailed%20Results%20Final.xls

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity per 100,000 resident population during the years ending 31 March 2008 and 2009 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England, 2008-09 report. Information is provided for England and by SHA and PCT. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 19 August 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809

The numbers of optometrists per 100,000 resident population as at 31 December 2007 and 2008 are available for England and by SHA and PCT in Table C1 (2007) and Table C2 (2008) of Annex 4 of the 'General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Statistics for England and Wales, 31 December 2008' report.

This report, published on 21 May 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/eye-care/general-ophthalmic-services:-workforce-statistics-for-england-and-wales-31-december-2008

The number of pharmacies per 100,000 resident population as at 31 March 2008 and 2009 are available for England and by SHA and PCT.

Data as at 31 March 2008 are available in the PCT Level Appendix of the 'General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2007-08' report. This report, published on 25 November 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/pharmacies/general-pharmaceutical-services-in-england-and-wales-1998-99-to-2007-08

Data as at 31 March 2009 are available in the PCT Level Appendix of the 'General Pharmaceutical Services in England 1999-00 to 2008-09' report. This report, published on 24 November 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/pharmacies/general-pharmaceutical-services-in-england-1999-2000-to-2008-09

Data on the numbers of pharmacists working within the pharmacies are not collected by the NHS Information Centre and therefore is not available centrally.

### Health Services: Sight Impaired

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to increase the provision of information to blind or partially-sighted people on their *(a)* diagnosis and *(b)* treatment. [303362]

**Ann Keen:** Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, service providers are required to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people. This means they must take reasonable steps to change any practice, policy or procedure which makes it unreasonably difficult for a disabled person to make use of their services. This may include producing information about the diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions in different formats, depending on an assessment of the person's needs. It is up to individual service providers as to how they make any necessary reasonable adjustments.

### HIV Infection: Circumcision

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has evaluated on the effects of male circumcision on the risk of contracting HIV. [304406]

**Gillian Merron:** The Expert Advisory Group on AIDS, which provides the Department with expert scientific advice on HIV, keeps the evidence on the effect of male circumcision on prevention of HIV transmission under review.

Male circumcision has been demonstrated to reduce heterosexual (female-to-male) transmission of HIV by around 60 per cent. in randomised controlled trials in Africa.

### HIV Infection: Health Education

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce HIV-related stigma. [304693]

**Gillian Merron:** "The National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV" (2001) included reducing HIV stigma as one of its goals. The Department funded the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health (MedFASH) who published in October 2009, "Tackling HIV Testing", a resource pack for hospital staff which addresses the impact of stigma on accepting and offering an HIV test.

The Department has also contributed to the African HIV Policy Network's "Changing Perspectives" campaign and the publication in June 2009 of HIV toolkits for African faith leaders which address issues linked to stigma.

This is additional to work funded following publication by the Department of "Tackling Stigma" in May 2007, which included a National AIDS Trust campaign on improving accurate press coverage of HIV and work with employers, as well as a booklet produced by NAM publications on "HIV Stigma and You" for people living with HIV (second edition published 2009).

### Hospitals: Crimes of Violence

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospital staff in England were physically assaulted while on duty in each of the last three years; [303575]

(2) how many hospital staff in England were hospitalised as a result of assault while on duty in each of the last three years. [303577]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of hospital staff in England physically assaulted while on duty is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of hospital staff in England hospitalised as a result of assault while on duty is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of reported physical assaults against national health service staff in 2006-07 and 2007-08 is contained in the 'Tables showing number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff from 2004-05 to 2007-08, broken down by NHS trust/PCT' which have already been placed in the Library.

Information on the number of reported physical assaults against NHS staff in 2008-09 is contained in the 'Tables showing number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff in 2008-09, broken down by NHS trust/PCT' which have already been placed in the Library.

The NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) can assist employers through guidance on assessing risks and acting to protect staff from assaults and, where incidents do occur, on taking action against offenders. The NHS SMS also works with stakeholders, including the Social Partnership Forum, to promote the safety and security of NHS staff.

### Hospitals: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were issued with parking fines following parking in hospital car parks in Milton Keynes in each of the last five years. [304344]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** These data are not collected centrally.

The management of national health service car parking is the responsibility of the NHS organisations locally. This includes the use of parking fines if the NHS consider it appropriate to reduce congestion and deter misuse of the facilities provided.

### Hospitals: Standards

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Monitor in assessing clinical performance at NHS hospitals. [303857]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The National Health Service Act 2006 requires Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) to be accountable to Parliament and to exercise its functions effectively, efficiently and economically.

### Influenza: Stockport

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doses of seasonal influenza vaccine had been distributed to health centres in the Stockport Primary Care Trust area in the 12 months to 1 December 2009. [304125]

**Gillian Merron:** Seasonal influenza vaccine is ordered by general practitioner (GP) practices direct from the manufacturers. The Department is not involved in the ordering process and does not have information about amounts ordered or distributed. Seasonal influenza vaccine is distributed from mid-September onwards, with most GP practices starting vaccination from early October.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance he has issued to strategic health authorities on the length of time within which they should aim to reply to correspondence from hon. Members; [303173]

(2) if his Department will issue guidance to NHS trusts on the length of time within which they should aim to reply to correspondence from hon. Members; [303174]

(3) what directions the NHS issues to staff of *(a)* NHS trusts and *(b)* strategic health authorities on the (i) provision and (ii) timeliness of replies to correspondence from hon. Members. [304152]

**Ann Keen:** In March 2009, the following guidance was issued to NHS chief executives via the NHS chief executive's monthly bulletin of "key messages":

*Handling correspondence from MPs*

> "NHS organisations are reminded of the importance of handling correspondence from MPs in the appropriate manner. NHS organisations will receive letters from MPs on a variety of topics and these should receive the personal consideration and response of the Chief Executive or, in some situations, it may be appropriate for the Chair to respond in behalf of their organisations. Some of these letters will be written on behalf of patients and carers and these may need to be handled as part of the complaints system but this does not mean that they should not be given the same priority as letters from MPs on any topic."

### NHS: East of England

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from the East of England strategic health authority on the performance of NHS trusts in its area. [303814]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department holds strategic health authorities to account for the performance of the national health service in its area using the results of the Care Quality Commission Annual health check, the NHS performance framework and other relevant information as a guide in that process.

### NHS: Essex

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when *(a)* Basildon and Thurrock NHS Foundation Trust and *(b)* Colchester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust received visits from (i) the East of England strategic health authority, (ii) the Health Protection Agency, (iii) the NHS Patient Safety Agency, (iv) the Care Quality Commission, (v) Monitor, (vi) the Health and Safety Executive and (vii) the NHS Litigation Authority in the last 12 months. [303855]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) will write to the hon. Member with the information he requested, and a copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

### Nurses: Graduates

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of new entrants to registered nursing in the NHS were graduates in each of the last 10 years. [303579]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not collected centrally.

Work force planning, including training, in the national health service is managed and led at a local level by the strategic health authorities taking into account the national policy direction.

Local NHS organisations are best placed to determine the levels of service and resource required to meet the health needs of the local population.

### Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the letter sent by the Minister of State for Care Services to the hon. Member for Eddisbury of 4 November 2009, ref MS(CS)500124, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board to date. [304246]

**Phil Hope:** All the meeting minutes of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board have been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the letter sent by the Minister of State for Care Services to the hon. Member for Eddisbury of 4 November 2009, ref MS(CS)500124, for what reasons Ministers need to consider the recommendations contained in the final report of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board before the final report is published. [304247]

**Phil Hope:** The report makes recommendations addressed to Government and other organisations. Ministers are considering how to respond to those recommendations.

### Palliative Care

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition his Department uses of *(a)* palliative and *(b)* end-of-life-care. [304942]

**Phil Hope:** The Department uses the following definitions, based on those used by the World Health Organisation and the National Council for Palliative Care:

> Palliative care is the active holistic care of patients with advanced progressive illness, focusing on the management of pain and other symptoms and the provision of psychological, social and spiritual care; and
>
> End-of-life care is care that helps all those with advanced, progressive, incurable illness to live as well as possible until they die. It enables the supportive and palliative care needs of both patients and family to be identified and met throughout the last phase of life and into bereavement. It includes management of pain and other symptoms and provision of psychological, social, spiritual and practical support.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* median, *(b)* mean and *(c)* maximum lifespan of those receiving palliative care. [304945]

**Phil Hope:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Patient Choice Schemes

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines his Department has issued on patient access to treatment by extended choice network providers; and what recent assessment he has made of the range of conditions for which patients are being treated by extended choice network providers. [304108]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** All approved extended choice networks (ECN) providers must agree to the ECN rules and sign up to a membership agreement prior to service commencement.

ECN providers undertake adult elective procedures. The range of procedures is listed in the ECN rules.

As at 30 September 2009, more than 105,000 patients have been treated under the extended choice and free choice networks.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were refused a referral to an extended choice network provider by such a provider in each of the last three years. [304109]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department does not hold this information as extended choice network providers are not required to submit data on refused patient referrals to the Department. Patient referral issues will be monitored locally by the appropriate primary care trust.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which psychiatric disorders are included in the list of conditions in relation to which providers in the extended choice network may refuse a patient referral. [304111]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** To help safeguard patient safety, Extended Choice Network rules state that a facility providing elective care should not treat a patient who has a current and significantly unstable psychiatric disorder where it cannot reasonably be expected to accommodate the patient's needs.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what criteria providers in the extended choice network are permitted to refuse referrals relating to *(a)* patients with psychiatric disorders and *(b)* other patients. [304112]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** National health service patients are assessed to ensure that they are treated in a clinically appropriate setting.

The Extended Choice Network rules list the patient and procedure exclusions.

The listed exclusions are:

*Patient:*

any person under the age of 18-years-old;

any patient with an American Society of Anaesthesiologists (ASA) score of three (who is unstable), unless the appropriate critical care facilities that meet the "Levels of Critical Care for Adult Patients" Standards and Guidelines (Intensive Care Society 2002) are available;

any patient with an ASA score higher than three (whether stable or unstable), unless the appropriate critical care facilities that meet the "Levels of Critical Care for Adult Patients" Standards and Guidelines (Intensive Care Society 2002) are available; and

a patient who has a current and significantly unstable psychiatric disorder where the approved facility cannot reasonably be expected to accommodate the patient's needs.

*Procedure:*

clinically urgent procedures (being patients that require surgery within 10 days for a clinical reason);

procedures related to maternity services;

termination of pregnancy;

surgery indicated to be for cosmetic reasons;

any procedure that is likely to require critical care, unless the appropriate critical care facilities that meet the "Levels of Critical Care for Adult Patients" Standards and Guidelines (Intensive Care Society 2002) are available; and in vitro fertilisation treatment for a patient that exceeds the number of procedures that would in the same circumstances be offered to that patient in his/her local NHS area or which is not in compliance with the licensing regulations laid down by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

### Scientists

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions he has met *(a)* the Government Chief Scientific Adviser and *(b)* his Department's Chief Scientific Adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303969]

**Phil Hope:** In the course of the last 12 months and in their capacity as Secretary of State for Health my right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle (Alan Johnson) and my right hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham) have met the Government Chief Scientific Adviser on three occasions and the Department's Chief Scientific Adviser on four occasions.

### Selly Oak Hospital

**Mr. Borrow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* patients and *(b)* military personnel have been treated for noise-induced hearing loss at Selly Oak Hospital in the last five years. [304009]

**Phil Hope:** No patients or military personnel have been admitted to Selly Oak Hospital with noise effects on the inner ear, which includes but is not limited to noise-induced hearing loss, as a primary or secondary diagnosis in the last five years (2004-05 to 2008-09). Data for the number of outpatients treated for noise effects on the inner ear are not collected centrally.

### Sickle Cell Diseases

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has visited any sickle cell disorder support groups in the last 12 months. [302905]

**Ann Keen:** Ministers have not visited any sickle cell disorder support groups in the last 12 months.

However I met with representatives from the Wolverhampton Sickle Cell Care and Social Activity Centre on 29 October 2008 and the UK Thalassaemia Society on 21 April 2009 to discuss respectively, care of sickle cell anaemia and thalassaemia patients. I also provided a statement of support in July 2009 for the All Party Parliamentary Group publication 'Sickle Cell Disease and Thalassaemia: A Health Check to raise awareness of these conditions'.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to improve the standard of services for those diagnosed with sickle cell anaemia. [302909]

**Ann Keen:** The planning, delivery and improvements in services for people diagnosed with sickle cell anaemia are the responsibility of local commissioners, providers and their relevant stakeholders.

We are working with a range of commissioners and stakeholders to improve the integration of health and social care services for people with sickle cell anaemia and to ensure that they receive the information and support that they need to manage their condition effectively.

### Siemens

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Siemens or its subsidiaries since February 2009. [303761]

**Phil Hope:** Since February 2009, the Department has entered into one contract with Siemens.

### Social Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 702W, on departmental publications, if he will publish each detailed model for the proposals outlined in the Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", apart from that relating to the provision of free personal homecare to certain users; [304212]

(2) for what reason he did not publish the economic modelling for the "Shaping the Future of Care Together" consultation before the consultation was concluded. [304241]

**Phil Hope:** The Department is working towards publishing a White Paper on care and support in early 2010. We have been working with the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) to provide the modelling and analysis to underpin our policy development. We were provided with an interim report from PSSRU in November but that was based on a view of the system when the Green Paper was published. Our core modelling assumptions have changed quite significantly since then as a result of our stakeholder engagement, responses to our consultation and developments such as the Prime Minister's announcement on free personal care. The report is therefore only part of the story and we have come to the conclusion that to publish it now could be unhelpful to the wider debate on the future of care and support.

The whole methodology of the interim report was published in July on the PSSRU's website at:

http://www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2644.pdf

The top-level costs and benefits are in the impact assessment published with the Green Paper and available on the Big Care Debate website at:

http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/greenpaper/the-green-paper-and-supporting-documents/

PSSRU continue to model the costs and benefits of a new National Care Service based on revised assumptions.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 4.5 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, for what reasons re-ablement will not be made available to those receiving palliative care. [304813]

**Phil Hope:** It would be for local councils to assess whether or not an individual would benefit from re-ablement.

In the vast majority of cases, where people are receiving palliative care at the end of their lives, it is likely that such an intervention would be both entirely inappropriate and of no benefit to them.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate, on the basis of the assumptions in the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, the cost to the Exchequer of the free personal care proposed to be provided in each year to 2030. [304941]

**Phil Hope:** The impact assessment estimates the first full year costs of extending free personal care at home to those with the highest needs at £537 million. It also estimates the costs of providing re-ablement services over the same period at £130 million, bringing the total costs of the proposals to approximately £670 million.

The impact assessment only covers the period from October 2010 to the end of 2012-13. Estimating beyond this point is problematic because of the uncertainties involved. The proposals here are intended as a step towards a fully integrated National Care Service, at which point a different set of assumptions may need to be applied.

### Strokes: Health Education

**Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of his Department's FAST campaign to raise stroke awareness. [303447]

**Ann Keen:** The FAST campaign was re-launched on television in November and will run until the end of December this year. Further adverts accompanied by a national print media campaign are planned to run from February to March next year.

The Department's FAST website has been updated and now includes a simple online exercise enabling people to test their knowledge of FAST. Further work which aims to embed the FAST message in first aid manuals and training programmes, ensuring sustained delivery of the campaign message, is ongoing.

In the coming months we will continue to monitor the impact of the campaign and plans for future activity in 2010-11 will build on the outcome of this work.

### Swine Flu: Vaccination

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the adequacy of supplies of the H1N1 vaccine to GP practices in order to meet the initial prioritisation of at-risk groups. [304151]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department has been monitoring the supply of swine flu vaccines to the national health service very closely and is in regular contact with the vaccine manufacturers and distributor.

As of 2 December 2009, 14.9 million doses of Pandemrix had been received in the United Kingdom, which was sufficient for all of the initial high-risk priority groups. An initial distribution of 500 doses of Pandemrix to every general practitioner (GP) practice in England was completed by 13 November 2009. From 12 November

2009 primary care trusts (PCTs) have been able to order additional supplies of vaccine for their GPs by using the Department's online ordering system.

While the timing of our overall delivery schedule has been reliant on predicted supplies from the manufacturer, we have taken action to ensure that supplies are pushed out to the national health service as fast as possible.

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to reach agreement with the British Medical Association on procedures and policy for vaccinating children between the ages of six months and five years against swine influenza. [304230]

**Gillian Merron:** As of 3 December 2009, negotiations between the British Medical Association General Practitioners Committee and NHS Employers were continuing. The Department is seeking a prompt conclusion to the negotiations to enable the NHS to begin protecting children over six months and under five years from the H1N1 swine flu virus as soon as possible.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Youth Unemployment

15. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the causes of changes in the level of youth unemployment in the last 12 months. [304076]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

23. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the reasons for changes in the level of youth unemployment in the last 12 months. [304084]

**Jim Knight:** Rising youth unemployment is one consequence of the global recession.

Unemployment is rising because more people are becoming unemployed in the recession and not because fewer people are leaving unemployment.

Long-term youth unemployment remains significantly below levels seen in previous recessions.

### New Deal for Lone Parents

19. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made on the new deal for lone parents. [304080]

**Yvette Cooper:** Since new deal for lone parents was introduced in October 1998, it has helped over 635,000 lone parents into work.

### Maintenance Payments: Absentee Fathers

20. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will bring forward proposals to require absentee fathers of the children of teenage mothers to make maintenance payments when they are in work; and if she will make a statement. [304081]

**Helen Goodman:** Under the current rules absentee fathers are obliged to pay £5 a week when they are on benefit and, as they enter work, their child maintenance calculation increases correspondingly as a proportion of their income.

### Economically Inactive Population

21. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the working age population in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Rochford and Southend East constituency was economically inactive on the latest date for which figures are available. [304082]

**Jim Knight:** Data from the Annual Population Survey show that from April 2008 to March 2009, the percentage of the working age population in Rochford and Southend, East that is inactive was 24.3 per cent. and in the UK it was 21.3 per cent.

The inactivity rate in the UK is lower today than it was in 1997 and, excluding full-time students, is 2.3 percentage points lower.

### Long-term Unemployment

24. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she is taking to reduce levels of long-term unemployment. [304085]

**Jim Knight:** Since 2008, the Government have made available £5 billion to provide substantial new support to get all unemployed jobseekers back to work.

This Government will not write off any individual and leave them languishing on benefits. That is why, through the new deal and the flexible new deal, people claiming benefits for 12 months or more will get the help they need to return to work.

### Christmas

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate she has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [300863]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Departmental funds are not normally used to fund internal staff parties or recreational events. The cost of staff parties, including Christmas parties, are normally met by those staff attending. In an organisation of the size of DWP, such events are numerous and are not systematically recorded by the Department or its agencies. No information is held centrally on the food served at these events nor could the plans for such events in 2009 be made available without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Domestic Visits

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions she visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303496]

**Jim Knight:** The Secretary of State has visited both Scotland and Wales once in her official capacity in the last 12 months. She has not visited Northern Ireland.

### Departmental Taxis

**Ian Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts her Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure her Department has incurred against each such contract in each of the last three years. [300841]

**Jim Knight:** The Department of Work and Pensions currently has no contracts with private hire taxi companies and has not had any such contracts during the last three years.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will assess the merits of introducing an automatic call-back request feature for callers to her Department's telephone helplines to minimise the cost to callers. [301086]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 24 November 2009]:* Where a customer calling the Department for Work and Pensions' 0800 or 0845 services asks us to, or raises concerns over the cost of the call, we will offer to call them back. In addition to this, Jobcentre Plus has recently introduced a further improvement in customer service for customers calling their 0800 and 0845 benefit enquiry numbers from mobile phones. From October 2009, all customers calling these numbers from a mobile phone are now automatically offered a call-back.

The Department has also asked our telephony provider to investigate how we might employ automated interventions that allow customers to leave call-back numbers without waiting for connection to an agent. Potential solutions may involve either saving a customer's place in line or scheduling a call back time convenient to each customer.

### Departmental Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date she last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of her official duties. [302720]

**Jim Knight:** The Secretary of State has not travelled by bus or taxi in the course of her official duties.

### Employment Services: Autism

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps her Department has taken to assist young people with autism find long-term employment. [304205]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We are fully committed to supporting young disabled people, including those diagnosed with autism, to find suitable and sustainable work. The Department will, following the recent consultation exercise on the Autism Bill, work closely with the Department of Health and others across government on the planned Autism Strategy.

The Department offers a number of programmes and services which help people with autism to find, and stay in employment.

Disability employment advisers in Jobcentre Plus, for example, can advise a customer about suitable job opportunities and specialised support available to disabled people. If necessary they can also advocate on a customer's behalf (by negotiating with employers), refer customers for an occupational health assessment, and use the professional expertise of work psychologists, who specialise in working with disabled people.

The Department has a number of specialist programmes that help disabled people move into paid work, some of which are only accessible through disability employment advisers. These programmes include work preparation, residential training and Workstep (a programme of supported employment).

Disabled people going into paid work may also be able to benefit from Access to Work, which provides practical advice and support to disabled people and their employers to help overcome work related obstacles resulting from disability. Access to Work provides a system of grants which contribute towards the cost of providing support, such as a job coach for a short period to help settle an autistic customer into work. Support can also be given to the customer in the form of awareness training on autism which can be delivered to the customer's colleagues.

Jobcentre Plus staff are also provided with training in the skills required to manage a range of behaviours demonstrated by customers, covering a variety of health conditions. This approach ensures that they are equipped to deal with diverse circumstances whilst treating customers as individuals. Advisers look at the interaction between the person, the job and an individual's ability and ensure that job goals relate to the customer's abilities and that work solutions are sought to overcome any challenges a customer might face in a particular job.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of incapacity benefit in each month since January 2004. [302350]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The available information is in the table.

*Number of people claiming incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance in Great Britain and abroad*

| | *Incapacity benefit* | *Employment and support allowance* |
|---|---|---|
| February 2004 | 2,819,160 | |
| May 2004 | 2,814,710 | |
| August 2004 | 2,817,010 | |
| November 2004 | 2,814,410 | |

*Number of people claiming incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance in Great Britain and abroad*

| | Incapacity benefit | Employment and support allowance |
|---|---|---|
| February 2005 | 2,799,870 | |
| May 2005 | 2,783,720 | |
| August 2005 | 2,767,740 | |
| November 2005 | 2,752,900 | |
| February 2006 | 2,747,400 | |
| May 2006 | 2,730,000 | |
| August 2006 | 2,724,900 | |
| November 2006 | 2,714,950 | |
| February 2007 | 2,704,100 | |
| May 2007 | 2,685,320 | |
| August 2007 | 2,683,160 | |
| November 2007 | 2,663,750 | |
| February 2008 | 2,659,650 | |
| May 2008 | 2,637,560 | |
| August 2008 | 2,632,000 | |
| November 2008 | 2,593,010 | 53,770 |
| February 2009 | 2,466,620 | 175,810 |
| May 2009 | 2,374,210 | [1]288,270 |

[1] Provisional data.

*Notes:*

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
3. The figures relating to employment and support allowance have been thoroughly quality assured to National Statistics standard. However, it should be noted that this is a new benefit using a new data source which may not have reached steady state in terms of operational processing and retrospection. Hence most recent data shown is provisional.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

## Jobcentre Plus

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of days were lost through sickness absence of Jobcentre Plus staff in each *(a)* region and *(b)* country of the UK in each of the last three years; what the rate of (i) early retirement and (ii) resignation on grounds of stress and ill health was amongst Jobcentre Plus staff in each (A) region and (B) country of the UK in each of the last three years; and what the rate of staff turnover was in Jobcentre Plus in each (1) region and (2) country of the UK in (y) 2007-08 and (z) 2008-09. [302246]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what percentage of days were lost through sickness absence of Jobcentre Plus staff in each a) region and b) country of the UK in each of the last three years; what the rate of a) early retirement and b) resignation on grounds of stress and ill health was amongst Jobcentre Plus staff in each a) region and b) country of the UK in each of the last three years; and what the rate of staff turnover was in Jobcentre Plus in each a) region and b) country of the UK in i) 2007/08 and ii) 2008/09. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table in the following annex provides details by region/country of the percentage of days lost as a result of sick absence in Jobcentre Plus. This sets out the position for 2008/09 and the latest point we have information for, i.e. the 12 month period from November 2008 to October 2009. Unfortunately, we do not hold any earlier information covering working days available and working days lost for each region/country to calculate percentage absence rates. Jobcentre Plus reports its attendance management performance in terms of average working days lost and those are the details we retain to monitor progress.

We do not have details of resignations that arose due to stress or ill health. However, we do maintain details of numbers of ill health retirements. These are contained in the following annex for each of the last three years. The figures comprise all ill health retirement cases that arose in Jobcentre Plus during the period in question.

Details of staff turnover for 2007/08 and 2008/09 are set out in the table in the annex.

*Annex*

*Percentage rate of sick absence in jobcentre plus*

| | Percentage absence rate | |
|---|---|---|
| Region/country | 12 months to March 2009 | 12 months to October 2009 |
| East Midlands | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| East of England | 4.0 | 3.7 |
| London | 4.5 | 4.0 |
| North East | 4.1 | 3.8 |
| North West | 4.4 | 4.1 |
| Scotland | 4.0 | 3.6 |
| South East | 4.2 | 3.9 |
| South West | 4.0 | 3.8 |
| Wales | 4.3 | 4.0 |
| West Midlands | 4.2 | 4.0 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 3.5 | 3.3 |

*Note:*

Sickness absence levels are reported on an average working days lost basis.

*Source:*

BOXI Management Information Portal

*Ill health retirements in jobcentre plus*

| *Region/country* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| East of England | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| London | 13 | 4 | 9 |
| North East | 11 | 12 | 15 |
| North West | 14 | 11 | 13 |
| Scotland | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| South East | 12 | 3 | 7 |
| South West | 3 | 9 | 11 |
| Wales | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| West Midlands | 15 | 9 | 13 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 14 | 3 | 3 |

*Note*:
Data relate to the 12 month period to March for each of the years.
*Source*:
Dataview, extracted from Resource Management

*Percentage rate of staff turnover in jobcentre plus*

| *Region/country* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 5.3 | 5.7 |
| East of England | 4.2 | 4.6 |
| London | 3.3 | 3.6 |
| North East | 4.3 | 4.2 |
| North West | 4.9 | 4.6 |
| Scotland | 4.8 | 4.9 |
| South East | 4.3 | 4.1 |
| South West | 6.9 | 7.1 |
| Wales | 4.9 | 4.7 |
| West Midlands | 4.9 | 4.9 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 4.7 | 5.0 |

*Note*:
Data relate to the 12 month period to March for each of the years.
*Source*:
Dataview, extracted from Resource Management

## Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many additional staff have been recruited by Jobcentre Plus from outside her Department in each region in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [301719]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many additional staff have been recruited by Jobcentre Plus from outside her Department in each region in each of the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table at Annex 1 provides details by region/country of the number of external recruits to Jobcentre Plus in the 12 month period October 2008 to September 2009.

*Annex 1: People recruited by Jobcentre Plus October 2008 to September 2009*

| | 2008 | | | 2009 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region/ country* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Total* |
| East Midlands | 54 | 70 | 28 | 171 | 63 | 88 | 85 | 108 | 220 | 268 | 219 | 159 | 1,533 |
| East of England | 26 | 40 | 32 | 70 | 40 | 94 | 93 | 163 | 324 | 343 | 228 | 135 | 1,588 |
| London | 8 | 97 | 43 | 74 | 40 | 85 | 143 | 193 | 231 | 307 | 381 | 264 | 1,866 |
| North East | 23 | 15 | 41 | 37 | 28 | 38 | 127 | 95 | 237 | 196 | 117 | 122 | 1,076 |
| North West | 45 | 127 | 79 | 136 | 126 | 191 | 85 | 158 | 276 | 490 | 321 | 321 | 2,355 |
| Scotland | 93 | 66 | 67 | 109 | 113 | 131 | 168 | 218 | 332 | 329 | 188 | 68 | 1,882 |
| South East | 37 | 45 | 85 | 142 | 73 | 25 | 186 | 297 | 207 | 324 | 215 | 94 | 1,730 |
| South West | 30 | 81 | 58 | 105 | 36 | 65 | 75 | 132 | 206 | 252 | 228 | 64 | 1,332 |
| Wales | 38 | 60 | 47 | 134 | 66 | 99 | 56 | 41 | 100 | 232 | 140 | 54 | 1,067 |
| West Midlands | 28 | 57 | 82 | 69 | 57 | 175 | 95 | 213 | 293 | 318 | 227 | 242 | 1,856 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 51 | 53 | 58 | 93 | 65 | 132 | 121 | 80 | 296 | 465 | 186 | 222 | 1,822 |
| Total | 433 | 711 | 620 | 1,140 | 707 | 1,123 | 1,234 | 1,698 | 2,722 | 3,524 | 2,450 | 1,745 | 18,107 |

*Source*:
Department for Work and Pensions Resource Management System

## Jobcentre Plus: South East Region

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus staff were employed in *(a)* Sussex and *(b)* the South East in each of the last 10 years. [301276]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus staff were employed in a) Sussex and b) the South East in each of the last 10 years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I have set out the information you requested in the following table. However, we do not hold figures for Sussex alone. The Jobcentre Plus District for which figures are provided below is Surrey and Sussex. In addition, I am unable to provide information for the period requested. For data capacity reasons the information you seek is only available from 2007.

| | South East | Surrey and Sussex[1] |
|---|---|---|
| March 2007 | 5,292 | 1,473 |
| March 2008 | 5,118 | 1,410 |
| March 2009 | 5,555 | 1,522 |
| September 2009 | 6,727 | 1,804 |

*Source*
Jobcentre Plus Resource Management System

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Interviews

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1034W, on Jobcentre Plus: interviews, what data her Department collects on *(a)* performance at each Jobcentre Plus office and *(b)* the average length of a jobseeker's interview with a personal adviser (i) for initial assessment, (ii) to make a jobseeker's agreement, (iii) to sign on and (iv) for other purposes. [302262]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

### National Insurance Contributions

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued to *(a)* non-UK EU nationals and *(b)* non-EU nationals in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available. [300391]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is in the following table.

*National insurance number registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, last 12 quarters of registration*

| | EU nationals | Non-EU nationals |
|---|---|---|
| April 2006 to June 2006 | 77,390 | 56,380 |
| July 2006 to September 2006 | 91,040 | 60,370 |
| October 2006 to December 2006 | 98,640 | 63,940 |
| January 2007 to March 2007 | 153,180 | 102,440 |
| April 2007 to June 2007 | 99,410 | 66,630 |
| July 2007 to September 2007 | 121,380 | 68,460 |
| October 2007 to December 2007 | 108,290 | 76,670 |
| January 2008 to March 2008 | 110,830 | 80,930 |
| April 2008 to June 2008 | 100,680 | 74,650 |
| July 2008 to September 2008 | 101,930 | 65,260 |
| October 2008 to December 2008 | 68,590 | 66,110 |
| January 2009 to March 2009 | 105,960 | 102,420 |

*Notes*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Registration date is derived from the date at which a national insurance number is maintained on the national insurance recording system.
3. World area of origin based on a client's nationality. The mapping for 'world areas' are based on the present day. Bulgaria and Romania are listed as EU accession states for the entire back series. European Union includes the accession states.
*Source*
100 per cent. extract from national insurance recording system.

### New Deal for Young People

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 583W, on work experiences: young people, how Jobcentre Plus secures placements on each of the *(a)* work, *(b)* voluntary sector and *(c)* environmental taskforce options for participants in the New Deal for Young People. [302240]

**Jim Knight:** Jobcentre Plus does not directly secure placements for the New Deal for Young People options. It is the New Deal providers, as part of their contract with Jobcentre Plus, who source and secure suitable placements for all three options according to customer demand.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 583W, on work experience: young people, what steps Jobcentre Plus is taking to monitor the efficacy of each option available under the New Deal for Young People in helping the participant into work. [302247]

**Jim Knight:** DWP welfare to work providers are required to meet the quality and delivery standards set out in the contract specification for New Deal for Young People , and are subject to contract management and monitoring by DWP.

New Deal Prime Contracts are subject to external inspection by Ofsted in England and Estyn in Wales. This is to provide independent assurance, through the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, that publicly funded provision is delivering a quality experience to our individual customers.

In addition, providers are expected to follow the DWP Quality Framework which promotes the commitment to quality improvement through continuous self-assessment and development planning. Areas for improvement identified through self-assessment and inspection are addressed through the DWP contract management review process.

An external inspection regime will be introduced in Scotland by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) from January 2010.

### Social Security Benefits: Drugs

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people on the trial programme to have lost benefit entitlement as a result of testing positive for drugs. [301380]

**Jim Knight:** The Department for Work and Pensions is not currently running any trial programme in which people have lost, or indeed could lose, benefit entitlement as a result of testing positive for drugs.

Arrangements are included in the Welfare Reform Act November 2009 to enable pilots for problem drug users within the benefit system, to take place from autumn 2010 in Central London, Cumbria and Lancashire, Merseyside, West Yorkshire, Birmingham and Solihull.

These pilots will offer additional support to those problem drug users already in treatment. In return, and in order to receive benefit payments, they will also test an approach in which claimants with a drug dependency that is a barrier to employment, and who are not already receiving drug treatment, will be required to sign up to a rehabilitation plan that will outline how they will engage with the help that is available to them to overcome their addiction. That is to say that doing nothing will no longer be an option for this group.

While these provisions will also allow for people on benefits to be required to take drug tests in certain limited and prescribed circumstances, there will be no loss of entitlement as a result of any positive test.

### Unemployment: Young People

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to reduce the level of youth unemployment; and if she will make a statement. [304063]

**Jim Knight:** We have launched a number of targeted initiatives to tackle youth unemployment.

From next month, the young person's guarantee will ensure all 18 to 24-year-olds on JSA will be guaranteed either the offer of a job, work-focused training or meaningful activity. They will then be required to take up one of these opportunities.

The Future Jobs Fund will create 150,000 jobs. Around 95,000 jobs have already been approved and some have already started.

But the Government can not prevent youth unemployment on our own. That is why we launched backing Young Britain and I am delighted to report that as a result over 330 employers are already pledging new opportunities for young people.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 8 December 2009*

## WALES

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305487]

**Mr. Hain:** In 2008-09 the Wales Office received 49 requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. 42 of these were answered within 20 days.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what changes to senior officials in his Department there have been during his present appointment as Secretary of State. [305095]

**Mr. Hain:** A new director has been appointed and three senior civil servant posts have been filled substantively.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many posts at each grade in his Department are unfilled. [305184]

**Mr. Hain:** There are six posts vacant currently. One at band A (grade 7), one at band C (higher executive officer), three at band D (executive officer) and one at band E (administrative officer).

### Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303957]

**Mr. Hain:** None.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### BAE Systems

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Attorney-General has had recent discussions with ministerial colleagues on the Serious Fraud Office's announcement that it intends to seek the Attorney-General's consent for prosecution in relation to charges against BAE Systems. [304096]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Attorney-General has had no such discussions.

### Departmental Assets

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Solicitor-General what assets of the Law Officers' Departments are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if she will make a statement. [300207]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Law Officers' Departments hold only minimal freehold assets, and in line with core Government policy actively manage their estates with a view to operational efficiency. Currently there are no plans to sell any assets in the years 2009-14.

The Government have stated their intention to realise £16 billion in asset disposals over the period 2011-14 and will publish further details of opportunities to commercialise business assets in the coming weeks.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Angela Browning:** To ask the Solicitor-General what security requirements are made by the Law Officers' Departments in respect of *(a)* people employed to provide audio transcription services to his Department from home, *(b)* the premises in which work to provide such services is carried out and *(c)* arrangements for the transfer of data between such premises and the Law Officers' Departments. [302692]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Attorney-Generals' Office, the Serious Fraud Office, Treasury Solicitors, the National Fraud Office and HM Crown Prosecution Services Inspectorate do not employ people to provide this service.

In the case of the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Service any such services used are supplied by HM Revenue and Customs, who are responsible for ensuring that their security requirements are complied with.

The CPS has contracts with the providers of audio transcription services that require the greatest possible degree of security commensurate with the value of the data and the risks, so as not to compromise the confidence of the vulnerable and intimidated witnesses who have provided the evidence, and to prevent misuse of the recordings, or transcripts for criminal or other unauthorised purposes.

The contract states that "the contractors shall store or process data only at sites specifically agreed in writing by the CPS". No permission has been sought or granted to any supplier to work outside their sites, or for any of their staff to work from home.

The four suppliers used by CPS set out their physical security arrangements for the premises as part of the tender. The details met the requirements of the CPS. The sites have subsequently been inspected and approved by staff from the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA).

All transfer of data between such premises and the CPS is carried out by Royal Mail—Special Delivery or Tracked Document Exchange (DX) or by hand in exceptional circumstances. This accords with the conditions set out in the Cabinet Office Security Policy Framework.

### Departmental Leave

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many days off in lieu *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* its agency granted to staff for working (i) during their lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [303734]

**The Solicitor-General:** The exact figures for time taken in lieu within the Law Officers' Departments and agency could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

### Sentencing: Northern Ireland

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Solicitor-General on how many occasions sentences handed down in courts in Northern Ireland have been subject to a referral to the Court of Appeal by the Attorney-General on grounds of undue leniency in the last five years; and on how many such occasions the sentence was amended as a result. [304585]

**The Solicitor-General:** The matter falls to me to answer as the power to make a reference to the Court of Appeal rests with the Attorney-General for Northern Ireland.

The figures requested are as follows:

| | | | *Number of offenders with sentence unchanged* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of offenders referred to Court of Appeal* | *Number of offenders with sentence increased by Court of Appeal* | *Court found sentence to be unduly lenient* | *Court found sentence not to be unduly lenient* | *Number of offenders with reference withdrawn* |
| 2005 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| 2006 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2008 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 2009[1] | 10 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

[1] One case referred in 2009 awaits hearing

### Terrorism: USA

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General (1) when Law Officers were informed by the Crown Prosecution Service that there was no or insufficient evidence to maintain a prosecution against Lotfi Raissi with regard to the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington DC on 11 September 2001; [304137]

(2) when Law Officers and officials of the Law Officer's Departments discussed with representatives of the security services, the police, the Crown Prosecution Service or the US Federal Bureau of Investigation progress in the criminal investigation into the alleged activities of Lotfi Raissi with regard to the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington DC on 11 September 2001; [304138]

(3) when Law Officers and officials of the Law Officer's Departments were informed of the contents of the Crown Prosecution Service report on its conduct of the case relating to the alleged involvement of Lotfi Raissi in the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington DC on 11 September 2001. [304139]

**The Solicitor-General:** I will answer the three questions together. Due to the passage of time which has elapsed since the events in question, it has not been possible to establish when communications passed between the CPS and the Law Officers, or their officials, about the case of Lotfi Raissi in 2001-02. Given the high profile and sensitive nature of the case, the Law Officers would have been kept informed and told promptly of any significant developments. The Law Officers were informed in September 2008 of the contents of the CPS report.

## PRIME MINISTER

### 10 Downing Street

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Prime Minister what records are archived on the premises of 10 Downing street. [304999]

**The Prime Minister:** The arrangements for the retention of records for the Prime Minister's Office are informed by "Operational Selection Policy OSP 12 (Records of the Central Direction and Oversight of Government Policy and Programmes, 1970-2000)" issued by The National Archives and available on The National Archives' website.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many external consultants work for his Department. [303239]

**Paul Goggins:** As at 27 November 2009, the Northern Ireland Office core and its Executive agencies employed five consultants on a full-time equivalent basis.

### Departmental Disabled Staff

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's guidelines in relation to the recruitment and employment of disabled people in the Northern Ireland Office. [303474]

**Mr. Woodward:** As the majority of staff in the Northern Ireland Office are Northern Ireland civil servants on secondment from the Department of Finance and Personnel, the Northern Ireland Office follows the NICS policy on the recruitment and employment of disabled people, which is a devolved matter.

### Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303941]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office has not issued any security passes to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months.

### Departmental Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302728]

**Mr. Woodward:** In accordance with advice the Secretary of State does not travel by bus or taxi for security reasons. All of my travel arrangements are undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Prisons: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions illicit alcoholic beverages have been found in the Sperrin unit of HM Prison Magilligan in the last five years. [305000]

**Paul Goggins:** There have been no illicit alcoholic beverages found in Sperrin House during the last five years.

### Racially Aggravated Offences

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted of a racially-motivated crime in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [305007]

**Paul Goggins:** The information sought on convictions for racially-motivated crimes is not available. Conviction would be for the simple offence (e.g. assault) without reference to any racial motivation. Court conviction data do not contain background information in relation to offences committed, and it is therefore not possible to separate out the number of convictions for offences with a racial motivation.

### Serious Organised Crime Agency: Northern Ireland

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the Serious Organised Crime Agency in Northern Ireland. [303468]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I have been asked to reply.

The purpose of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) is to prevent and detect serious organised crime and to mitigate its harms by other means throughout the UK. It discharges these functions in Northern Ireland as it does in the rest of the UK and reports its results in its annual report each year.

### Sexual Offences

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of (i) assault and (ii) sexual assault on teachers in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [305245]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is not available. Court prosecution and conviction data do not contain background information in relation to offences committed, and it is therefore not possible to separate out the number of prosecutions and convictions for assault and sexual assault on teachers.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Manpower

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to ensure sufficient agriculture engineers are trained to service the UK agricultural and food industry markets. [303802]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The issue of improving skills in the farming industry is best managed by the industry itself. Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the Environmental and Land based industries, which includes the agricultural sector, has the role of representing the needs of the industry to Government.

DEFRA is working with a number of industry stakeholders, including Lantra, on an industry led action plan called Skills for Farming. This action plan has recently been discussed directly with the Secretary of State and work is ongoing. The action plan will cover all skill areas in the industry, including technical skills, as well as business, environmental management and low carbon farming skills.

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on administering non-compliance penalties issued under the Single Payment Scheme in each of the last five years. [303614]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Penalties, reductions and exclusions may be applied to Single Payment Scheme applications for a number of reasons if an application is found to be non-compliant. In answering this question we have taken 'non-compliance penalties' to mean all cases where a reduction has been made to farmers' payments under the Single Payment Scheme.

It is not possible to identify separately the costs of administering non-compliance penalties from overall administrative costs.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he made of the costs associated with the Rural Payments Agency's practice of resizing fields in each of the last three years. [303624]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Rural Payment Agency's (RPA) annual business as usual running costs of maintaining the Rural Land Register (RLR) mapping system by adjusting fields are as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 2.9 |
| 2007-08 | 2.9 |
| 2006-07 | 4.3 |

In addition to the business as usual costs, RPA has projected a budget of £21.4 million (covering the period January 2007 to April 2010) to complete the programme of work which includes updating the RLR data with the latest mapping information and confirming the link between each land parcel and a specific claimant.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the average amount of personal debt incurred by farmers due to late Single Payment Scheme payments; [303626]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect on farmers of late payments under the Single Payment Scheme. [303629]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Since the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) was introduced in 2005, the timing of payments to English farmers has improved year on year. That progress continued under the 2009 scheme when over 80 per cent. of farmers received payment on the opening two days of the regulatory seven month payment window.

Regrettably, some farmers are paid after the end of the payment window, but only under the 2005 scheme has the amount concerned exceeded the 4 per cent. 'franchise' in EU regulations that triggers late payment penalties. The 4 per cent. franchise exists in acknowledgment that some claims are particularly complex or involve legal issues, such as probate, which take additional time to resolve. Payments made after the end of the payment window may have an impact on individuals' financial position, but the Department is not aware of any data that would identify specifically related cases of debt. In order to minimise any such impacts, the Rural Payments Agency will continue its efforts to make outstanding payments as early as possible and pay interest in lieu of compensation, above a deminimis of £50, in cases where this is not possible until after the end of the payment window.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department *(a)* has been required and *(b)* is likely to be required to pay in financial penalties for non-compliance with European Commission requirements in respect of the Single Payment scheme in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [304016]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To date, financial penalties of order of £64 million for late payments and £5 million for a shortfall in cross-compliance inspections have been imposed in respect of the 2005 Single Payment scheme. In addition, provisions have been made in DEFRA's accounts for potential 'disallowance' totalling £205 million in respect of the 2005 and 2006 Single Payment schemes combined. However, the European Commission has yet to complete its deliberations on this issue. No penalties/disallowance have been imposed or provisions made in respect of subsequent scheme years.

### Agriculture: Wales

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the financial implications for farming incomes in Wales of the interpretation by *(a)* the European Court of Auditors and *(b)* the European Commission of the rules regulating EU agri-environmental schemes. [305183]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Welsh agri-environment schemes are funded by the Rural Development Plan (RDP) for Wales. The RDP for Wales is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government and as such, any decisions on the implications for farming incomes in Wales are a matter for them.

### Dangerous Dogs

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the reasons for trends in the number of cases of people attacked by dogs in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [304118]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We have made no such assessment.

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many arrests have been made for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* England since the Act came into force. [304119]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. Offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 are not notifiable offences and do not form a part of the collection.

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* genetic and *(b)* other factors affecting the likelihood of different breeds of dogs being involved in attacks on people. [304120]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We have made no such assessment. However in April this year we commissioned new research into dog aggression against humans. The project will last for 15 months and will entail an analytical study into the risk factors associated with past aggressive dog behaviour towards people.

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have been convicted for offences related to attacks by their dogs on *(a)* children and *(b)* other people in the last five years. [304121]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Information from the court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice provides information on the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. The database does not hold specific information on offences beyond descriptions provided by the statutes under which prosecutions are brought, and for this offence cannot separately identify whether the individual attacked was a child or adult.

*Defendants found guilty for selected offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, England and Wales, 2003 to 2007*[1, 2]

| *Offence description* | *Section of the Act* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *Number*<br>*2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person | S.3(1) | 302 | 350 | 403 | 458 | 456 |
| Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused | S.3(1) | 171 | 167 | 168 | 160 | 205 |
| Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person | S.3(3) | 33 | 25 | 25 | 29 | 27 |
| Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person | S.3(3) | 10 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 15 |

[1] The number proceeded against and number found guilty statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice (Ref: IOS 578-09).

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dogs have been seized and put down in *(a)* Southport constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England in the last 12 months. [304122]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** These figures are not held centrally.

### Flood Control

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to give the Fire Service a statutory duty to carry out flood rescues as recommended in the Pitt Report. [304334]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Following completion of the Flood Rescue National Enhancement Project, for which £2,000,000 has been allocated from DEFRA's funding to implement Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations, the Government will assess the improved flood rescue capability. We will also consider whether there is a need for a statutory duty to underpin the role of any of the agencies involved.

### Land: Registration

**Mr. Howard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of maps issued have been returned due to error during the course of the 2009 update of the Rural Land Register; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of work arising from maps returned due to error; and if he will make a statement. [302807]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 1 December 2009]*: The Mapping Update project was undertaken to update the land information held on the Rural Land Register (RLR) by improving the quality of data and providing farmers with an accurate and up-to-date record of their land in respect of subsidy claims.

As at 27 November 2009, more than 107,000 maps have been sent to farmers and we have received 44,360 requests for changes. This represents some 41 per cent. of the maps issued and remains within the project's expectations.

The cost of making the requested edits and re-issuing maps is included in the overall RLR programme cost of £21.4 million was set out in my answer to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown) 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1167W.

While the latest Ordnance Survey data and recent aerial photography have been used, the maps will not show any changes to the land carried out more recently by farmers and the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) ask farmers therefore to confirm that the maps are correct, or what changes are necessary.

Each year the Rural Payments Agency receives about 25,000 business as usual requests for land changes from farmers. In 2009 many of these will be included in the Mapping Update requests.

### Livestock: Animal Welfare

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of ships departing from UK ports carrying live animals have been subject to inspection for animal welfare purposes in each of the last five years. [303611]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** All livestock vessels (other than roll-on, roll-off vessels which are exempt from the need to be formally approved) are inspected and approved prior to use. This is a requirement of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. It is not possible to provide figures for the previous five years since these data are not available centrally.

### River Tame: EU Law

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure the Tame River catchment meets the requirements of the EC Water Directive. [302895]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The consultation on the Humber River Basin Management Plan, which covers the River Tame catchment, ran from 22 December 2008 to 22 June 2009. The responses were used to further develop the plan which was sent to Ministers for approval on 22 September 2009.

There are a number of pressures on the Tame catchment, such as physical modifications due to urbanisation, flood protection, point source discharges from sewage works and diffuse run-off from urban areas.

Some of the key actions that will be implemented in the River Tame, subject to the River Basin Management Plan being approved, include:

Improvement to the quality of the final effluent from sewage treatment works, to reduce levels of nutrients in the catchment, including phosphorus via the Asset Management programme.

Targeted pollution prevention campaigns around industrial areas throughout the catchment.

Targeted discussions with local authorities on their contribution to the required actions.

Investigations into sources of poor water quality in water bodies and the impact of any abstractions within the catchment. Projects include "It's a Washout"   a study on identifying and tackling areas of urban diffuse run-off in the Upper Tame catchment.

Tackling diffuse pollution across the catchment with the use of projects involving local communities, local authorities and water companies.

Initiatives include the Washwood Heath Brook improvement project and the Thimble Mill Brook improvement project.

Tackling historic industrial pollution issues, for example, the leaching of heavy metals from contaminated land to the Rough Brook and also at Bentley Mill Way.

Projects for the improvement of fish populations within the River Tame catchment include creating refuges to shelter fish from pollution and flooding and improving the river   habitat, for example, by re-profiling projects at Tamworth and Croxall.

Feasibility reports for fish passes to allow fish to migrate to spawning habitats and re-colonise the river.

River restoration projects along the Tame and its tributaries, including channel braiding, gavel introduction, tree planting, floodplain habitat creation and reconnecting the river to its floodplain.

The first set of River Basin Management Plans for the period 2009-15 are due to be published on 22 December 2009.

## Rural Payments Agency: Manpower

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time, *(c)* permanent and *(d)* temporary staff have been employed at the Rural Payments Agency in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [304015]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Table 1 details the number of permanent and temporary staff employed at the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) in each year since 2005.

*Table 1*

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Permanent[1] | 2,555 | 2,666 | 2,344 | 2,829 |
| Temporary[2] | 1,949 | 1,801 | 1,953 | 871 |

[1] Includes only civil servants with permanent employment contracts

[2] Includes all staff who do not have permanent employment contracts, for example fixed-term and casual civil servants, employment agency workers and contractors

Table 2 shows how many full-time and part-time civil servants were employed at RPA in each year since 2005. RPA has not historically kept records on whether agency staff or contractors are full or part time.

*Table 2*

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full time civil servants | 2,854 | 2,812 | 2,966 | 2,991 |
| Part time civil servants | 237 | 275 | 574 | 348 |

## Sewers: Private Sector

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect of the proposed provisions of the Private Drains and Sewers Transfer Bill on the drainage contracting industry. [305348]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** At each stage of the Review of Private Sewers DEFRA has published Impact Assessments to accompany consultations and decisions. The latest Impact Assessment accompanied Hilary Benn's announcement of the decision to proceed with transfer in November 2008 and is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/industry/sewers/documents/impact-assessment-private-sewers.pdf

The Small Firms Impact Test within this Impact Assessment acknowledged that some smaller independent drainage contractors perceive transfer as a threat. Some do see opportunities, such as CCTV work for example, because of course the work on sewers and laterals will still need to be undertaken.

A further Impact Assessment will accompany the consultation on proposals for implementation regulations on which I anticipate consulting this winter (2009-10), prior to presenting the final regulations to Parliament for approval.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultation his Department undertook with the drainage contracting industry regarding the transfer of private drains to water companies in 2011. [305349]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** In July 2003 DEFRA published the 'Review of Existing Private Sewers and Drains in England and Wales' consultation paper that sought views on a range of strategic options to deal with the problems of private sewers. The Government published a response to this consultation in October 2004. 81 per cent. of stakeholders favoured a change of ownership, and of these, 90 per cent. held the view that sewerage undertakers should take over responsibility. DEFRA acknowledged the strength of support for this solution and undertook to look at it in more depth.

Subsequently, representatives of 50 stakeholder groups were invited to a private sewers seminar in January 2005. This included a workshop looking at the potential impacts on small businesses.

Because of the drainage industry's fragmented nature and the fact that no national body specifically represents the views of smaller drainage companies it has been particularly difficult to seek contractors' views. However, following the workshop DEFRA undertook a telephone survey of over 130 contractors to identify the potential impacts of any transfer on them. DEFRA has also included the Society of British Water and Wastewater Industries and the National Sewerage Association, together with the Enterprise Directorate (formerly the Small Business Service), on a stakeholder steering group. These organisations have consistently made representations about the potential impact of transfer on smaller drainage businesses.

In February 2007 the Government published their decision paper and committed to consult on options for the implementation of transfer. A consultation paper on implementation options was published in July 2007, and Hilary Benn announced on 15 December 2008 the Government's decision to proceed with transfer from 2011.

Copies of the 2003 and 2007 consultation papers and the Government's 2004 response to the review were placed in the Library of the House on publication. A Summary of Responses to the 2007 Consultation on Implementation Options was published in March 2008 and is available from DEFRA.

Further consultation on the content of regulations to implement transfer will be published this winter and DEFRA continues to work closely with a range of interested stakeholders in developing proposals for implementation.

### Water Charges: Concessions

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 950W, on water charges, in which financial year he expects such concessionary schemes to commence; and what prior steps he is taking to assist voluntary organisations which are subject to surface water drainage charges. [305259]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Legislation to enable water and sewerage companies in England and Wales to operate concessionary schemes for community premises for the purpose of surface water drainage charges was included in the Flood and Water Management Bill. This was presented to Parliament on 19 November.

Currently four of the 10 water and sewerage companies in England and Wales have switched to site area charging for surface water drainage for non-household customers. Most of the problems originally occurred with United Utilities and it is currently looking at options to ensure that community groups do not face unaffordable surface water drainage charges ahead of the Government's legislation being in place.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) alcohol and (ii) entertainment in the last 12 months. [305543]

**Mr. Simon:** All expenditure on entertainment is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The overall expenditure on entertainment by the Department in the last 12 months (to November 2009) was £126,470. It is not possible to disaggregate the spend on alcohol except at disproportionate cost.

The Royal Parks, the Department's agency, does not record information against these expenditure headings and it would incur disproportionate cost to obtain it by manually reviewing the year's underlying paperwork.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments Digital UK has made to *(a)* Weber Shandwick and *(b)* Fishburn Hedges in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [305136]

**Mr. Simon:** The information you have requested is not held centrally and is a matter for Digital UK.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the British Museum has made to Weber Shandwick Public Affairs in the last 12 months for which figures are available; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [305145]

**Margaret Hodge:** The information you have requested is not held centrally and is a matter for the British Museum.

Accordingly, I have asked the director to write to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303950]

**Mr. Simon:** While the Department holds a record of security passes that have been issued to contractors, this is not broken down into those providing consultancy services and those who are not.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305219]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department operates one of these, an 0800 number, and 1,422 calls were made to that number in last 12 months. No alternative number charged at the BT local rate is available as it is not necessary.

### Holiday Accommodation: Overseas Visitors

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his latest estimate is of the use by overseas visitors of self-catering holiday accommodation in this country in each of the last three years. [303360]

**Margaret Hodge:** VisitBritain makes available data from the Office for National Statistics' International Passenger Survey. The data capture the number of inbound visitors, the number of nights spent in Britain by inbound visitors, and the amount spent on trips within the UK broken down by accommodation categories, though not specifically self-catering holiday accommodation. This information can be accessed at:

http://www.visitbritain.org/Images/acomm08pivot_tcm139-167995.xls

### Horserace Totalisator Board

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made in preparations for the sale of the Tote. [305045]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Government are preparing for the sale of the Tote in line with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's announcement on 12 October 2009. The current intention is that a sale process would start in summer 2010 and be completed around March 2011.

### Leisure: Expenditure

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many *(a)* playing fields and *(b)* swimming pools, there are in each (i) district council and (ii) unitary authority area in the East of England; [304577]

(2) what information his Department holds on expenditure on running costs for sports and leisure facilities at district and unitary council areas in the East of England. [304993]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Sport England has supplied the information in the following table for the number of grass pitches and swimming pools in each district council and unitary authority area in the East of England.

| *District/Unitary Authority (UA)* | *Green Fields* | *Swimming Pools* |
|---|---|---|
| Babergh | 137 | 8 |
| Basildon | 179 | 14 |
| Bedford | 122 | 16 |
| Braintree | 179 | 15 |
| Breckland | 155 | 9 |
| Brentwood | 112 | 14 |
| Broadland | 137 | 14 |
| Broxbourne | 112 | 9 |
| Cambridge | 169 | 17 |
| Castle Point | 93 | 8 |
| Chelmsford | 256 | 18 |
| City of Peterborough (UA) | 158 | 14 |
| Colchester | 245 | 34 |
| Dacorum | 288 | 24 |
| East Cambridgeshire | 141 | 5 |
| East Hertfordshire | 219 | 22 |
| Epping Forest | 169 | 14 |
| Fenland | 112 | 5 |
| Forest Heath | 54 | 4 |
| Great Yarmouth | 91 | 9 |
| Harlow | 95 | 7 |
| Hertsmere | 185 | 17 |
| Huntingdonshire | 223 | 13 |
| Ipswich | 140 | 11 |
| King's Lynn and West Norfolk | 170 | 13 |
| Luton (UA) | 179 | 14 |
| Maldon | 59 | 6 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 242 | 14 |
| Mid Suffolk | 176 | 7 |
| North Hertfordshire | 199 | 14 |
| North Norfolk | 155 | 15 |
| Norwich | 109 | 11 |
| Rochford | 109 | 8 |
| South Bedfordshire | 195 | 10 |
| South Cambridgeshire | 262 | 13 |
| South Norfolk | 212 | 14 |
| Southend-on-Sea (UA) | 103 | 14 |
| St. Albans | 284 | 17 |
| St. Edmundsbury | 157 | 18 |
| Stevenage | 95 | 5 |
| Suffolk Coastal | 243 | 13 |
| Tendring | 114 | 18 |
| Three Rivers | 134 | 7 |
| Thurrock (UA) | 164 | 10 |
| Uttlesford | [illegible] | 10 |
| Watford | 87 | 6 |
| Waveney | 134 | 11 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | 141 | 10 |

Sport England does not collect the running costs for sports and leisure facilities in each district and unitary council. This information would have to be requested from each individual local authority.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Tamworth of 16 October 2009. [303774]

**Margaret Hodge:** A response to your letter was sent out on 6 December 2009.

### Museums and Galleries: Yorkshire and Humberside

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people visited each of the national museums in Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1996-97. [304513]

**Margaret Hodge:** The number of visits to the national museums which fall within the Yorkshire and Humber region are as follows.

| | National Coal Mining Museum For England[1] | National Media Museum[2] | National Railway Museum, York | Royal Armouries Leeds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | n/a | 298,904 | 420,076 | 349,000 | 1,067,980 |
| 1998-99 | n/a | 83,613 | 434,566 | 296,000 | 814,179 |
| 1999-2000 | n/a | 963,370 | 467,000 | 173,900 | 1,604,270 |
| 2000-01 | 65,802 | 969,822 | 485,785 | 185,710 | 1,707,119 |
| 2001-02 | 60,032 | 823,309 | 587,062 | 281,667 | 1,752,070 |
| 2002-03 | 107,282 | 768,161 | 567,299 | 302,527 | 1,745,269 |
| 2003-04 | 121,822 | 721,271 | 740,217 | 277,105 | 1,860,415 |
| 2004-05 | 116,553 | 656,901 | 885,406 | 301,889 | 1,960,749 |
| 2005-06 | 119,627 | 615,431 | 744,472 | 244,469 | 1,723,999 |
| 2006-07 | 128,960 | 677,029 | 903,100 | 225,417 | 1,934,506 |
| 2007-08 | 135,699 | 737,837 | 824,106 | 267,624 | 1,965,266 |
| 2008-09 | 116,186 | 672,951 | 782,430 | 264,973 | 1,836,540 |

[1] Visit figures for National Coal Mining Museum England for years prior to 2000-01 are not available.

[2] The National Media Museum was partially closed in 1997-98 and 1998-99 for refurbishment.

### Tourism: Cumbria

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Regional Development Agency is providing to assist Cumbria's tourism industry to recover from the recent flooding. [305044]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is as follows.

*(a)* My Department is part of the Government's Flood Recovery group and is monitoring the situation closely. We have been working with our partners to provide assistance for the tourism industry in the area. For example, Cumbria Tourism has set up a helpline to provide advice to visitors (01539 825070) and web pages to detail events going ahead. This will be supported by a pre-Christmas marketing campaign. English Heritage has ensured that one of their Historic Buildings advisors is free to provide specialist advice: it is still too early to know the full extent of the damage or the scale of response required, but this will become clearer over the coming weeks.

*(b)* The North West Development Agency (NWDA) announced a £1 million Flood Recovery Grants package for small and medium enterprises which includes support for tourism businesses. It was announced that this would be supplemented with an additional £100,000 to support the national marketing campaign, noted above, led by Cumbria Tourism. NWDA has also placed adverts in national papers promoting tourism businesses in the area and the NWDA tourism marketing team is pursuing similar lines to promote tourism in Cumbria. This activity is all in addition to the ongoing funding of Cumbria Tourism which will receive core funding of £1.4 million from NWDA in 2009-10.

## TRANSPORT

### Buses: Safety

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many buses were subject to *(a)* pre-notified and *(b)* un-notified safety inspections by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in each of the last five years; and what proportion of these were issued with (i) immediate and (ii) suspended prohibition notices. [304680]

**Paul Clark:** The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) have conducted the following tests on passenger service vehicles over the last five years:

| | Number of checks | Number prohibited |
|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 16,503 | 3,170 |
| 2007-08 | 14,362 | 2,651 |
| 2006-07 | 16,849 | 3,200 |
| 2005-06 | 17,510 | 2,772 |
| 2004-05 | 17,746 | 2,840 |

Note:

VOSA does not separately record *(a)* pre-notified and *(b)* un-notified safety inspections.

These data and further information are available in VOSA's effectiveness report available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/publications/corporatereports/2008-2009reportsuite/2008-2009reportsuite.htm

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of each report of research projects conducted by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and *(c)* the Traffic Commissioner on safety risks to the public in respect of the bus industry in the last 10 years. [304783]

**Paul Clark:** Any research conducted by the Department for Transport concerning safety risks to the public in respect of the bus industry would already be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Any research conducted by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is sponsored by the central Department. VOSA's enforcement figures regarding all public service vehicles are published in its Effectiveness report, a copy of which can be found in the Libraries of the House.

The Traffic Commissioners do not conduct research but may inform VOSA of any specific areas of concern they have. Any reference to safety risks by the bus industry would be found in the Traffic Commissioners Annual Report, a copy of which has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department allocated through the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency for the monitoring of performance in relation to bus services in each of the last three years; and how much funding he plans to allocate for such purposes in each of the next three years. [304784]

**Paul Clark:** Funding allocated by the Department to the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency for bus punctuality enforcement for the last three financial years is set out in the following table. Decisions about funding for the next three years are still to be taken.

| *Financial year* | *Funding (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 650,000 |
| 2008-09 | 713,750 |
| 2009-10 | 700,000 |

### Capita Group

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and his Department and its predecessors have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts since 1997. [[illegible]]

**Chris Mole:** Since the Department for Transport was formed in May 2002, there have been no contracts prematurely terminated with Capita Group plc. During this period Capita Group has been liable for settlements in respect of assorted delays incurred on projects to the aggregated value of £2.738 million.

### Departmental Assets

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [[illegible]]

**Chris Mole:** The Government have stated their intention to realise £16 billion in disposals over the period 2011-14 and will publish further details of opportunities to commercialise business assets in the coming weeks.

The Department for Transport is considering a number of opportunities for asset sales. However, the timing of any sale is subject to market conditions being right.

Details on value cannot be released due to the need to protect the Department's position in future sale negotiations.

Two high profile examples are Dartford Crossing and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (HS1).

*Dartford Crossing*

The A282 Dartford Crossing comprises the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge, which provides four southbound lanes, while two tunnels under the Thames provide a four-lane northbound facility. Use of the crossing is subject to a congestion charge in both directions paid at a plaza located to the south of the Thames.

The Department is working with HM Treasury and the Shareholder Executive to consider the commercial options for realising value for the taxpayer from the Dartford Crossing. No estimate of the saleable value of the Dartford Crossing has been made. Any such valuation would depend on the nature of any commercial agreements for a sale, including, but not exclusively, the length of those arrangements, the level of future charges and forecast future traffic volumes. The Department is planning to provide initial views from the analysis on future capacity options in early 2010. This will provide a basis for deciding which commercialisation option to pursue.

It is not possible to say when a sale might be finalised.

*Channel Tunnel Rail Link—High Speed 1 (HS1)*

High Speed 1 (formerly known as the Channel Tunnel Rail Link) is the high speed line which operates between St. Pancras International Station and the Channel Tunnel. It is operated by HS1 Ltd which is owned by London and Continental Railways (LCR).

The Department is currently engaged in a restructuring of London and Continental Railways. Following this, it is the Department's intention, as market conditions allow, to sell a long-term concession for High Speed 1 in such a way as to maximise value for money for the taxpayer. The Government would not wish to publish its estimate of the expected proceeds at this stage; to do so might condition the competitive sale process and damage value.

It is not possible to say when a sale might be finalised.

### London City Airport

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with (i) National Air Traffic Services (NATS) and (ii) the Civil Aviation Authority on the decision to modify the flight routings of aircraft using London City Airport; and for what reasons such revised routings did not form part of the further public consultation on the NATS Terminal Control North proposal. [303851]

**Paul Clark:** The revised standard instrument departure (SID) routings at London City airport were implemented in accordance with the independent airspace change process under which it is for the airspace change sponsor to develop and consult upon proposals. It is then for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the independent airspace regulator, to assess the proposals against regulatory requirements and either approve or reject the proposal.

The Terminal Control North (TC North) proposals, of which the London City SID changes originally formed a part, are a package of measures designed to reduce delay whilst maintaining safety and improving environmental performance in one of the most complex areas of airspace in the world. Following the outcome of last year's public consultation, NATS decided to review the TC North design options. However, the London City airport SID change element was aimed at meeting already established International Civil Aviation Organisation design standards. In the circumstances, the London City SID changes were removed from the TC North proposals and progressed as a stand alone proposal. The CAA considered that further consultation on the London City airport SID changes were not needed as they had already been included in the full TC North consultation.

### Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many people renewed their vehicle excise duty online in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 to date. [304531]

**Paul Clark:** During 2008 the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's Electronic Vehicle Re-licensing and SORN service completed 16,299,242 successful transactions, broken down into 14,141,505 re-licensing transactions and 2,157,737 SORN transactions.

To date in 2009, there have been 18,107,026 successful transactions. 15,794,997 of these were re-licensing transactions and 2,312,029 were SORN transactions.

## Network Rail

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had with train operating companies on proposals that they take control of the railway network from Network Rail. [304220]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport has not had any recent formal discussions with train companies on proposals that they take control of the railway network from Network Rail.

## Norwich-London Railway Line

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions Ministers in his Department travelled on the Norwich to London railway line in the course of their official duties in each of the last 10 years. [304214]

**Chris Mole:** The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

## Roads: Accidents

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many *(a)* road traffic accidents, *(b)* road traffic fatalities, *(c)* accidents involving motorcyclists, *(d)* fatalities involving motorcyclists, *(e)* accidents involving cyclists and *(f)* fatalities involving cyclists there were in (i) Berkshire and (ii) Reading East constituency in each of the last five years; [304632]

(2) how many road traffic accidents in *(a)* Berkshire and *(b)* Reading East constituency involved motorbikes in each of the last five years; and how many of these resulted in loss of life in each of those five years; [304633]

(3) how many road traffic accidents which occurred in *(a)* Berkshire and *(b)* Reading East constituency involved loss of life in each of the last five years. [304634]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is given in the following tables:

*Reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities in Berkshire 2004-08*

| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All injury accidents | 2,578 | 2,480 | 2,532 | 2,440 | 2,323 |
| Fatal accidents | 56 | 59 | 52 | 54 | 27 |
| Fatalities | 59 | 64 | 54 | 39 | 27 |
| | | | | | |
| Accidents involving motorcycles | 334 | 303 | 290 | 300 | 264 |
| Fatal accidents involving motorcycles | 6 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 6 |
| Fatalities in accidents involving motorcycles | 6 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 6 |
| | | | | | |
| Accidents involving pedal cycles | 276 | [illegible] | [illegible] | 293 | 302 |
| Fatal accidents involving pedal cycles | 7 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Fatalities in accidents involving pedal cycles | 7 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 |

*Reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities in Reading East constituency[1] 2004-08*

| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All injury accidents | 319 | 317 | 335 | 301 | 302 |
| Fatal accidents | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Fatalities | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| | | | | | |
| Accidents involving motorcycles | 44 | 40 | 47 | 46 | 35 |
| Fatal accidents involving motorcycles | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Fatalities in accidents involving motorcycles | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | | | | | |
| Accidents involving pedal cycles | 55 | 66 | 64 | 59 | 55 |
| Fatal accidents involving pedal cycles | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fatalities in accidents involving pedal cycles | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Based on 2004 constituency boundaries.

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many fatal road traffic accidents there have been in Reading, East constituency where the major contributory factor was *(a)* speed, *(b)* excess alcohol and *(c)* failure to maintain the vehicle in each of the last five years; [304635]

(2) how many individuals were injured as a result of road accidents attributed to *(a)* road surface defects, *(b)* road works and *(c)* defective road signs in (i) Berkshire and (ii) Reading, East constituency in each of the last five years. [304637]

**Paul Clark:** Information on contributory factors to road accidents is not available below Government office region level.

Information about contributory factors can be found in Article 4 in the Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2008 Annual Report, copies of which have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what statistics his Department collects on road traffic accidents involving newly-qualified drivers; and how many such accidents occurred in Reading, East constituency in the last five years. [304636]

**Paul Clark:** Information regarding the length of time individuals involved in road accidents have held a driving licence is not routinely collected by the Department for Transport.

The Department has published research into new and learner drivers, Road Safety Research Report No. 81 — Cohort II: A Study of Learner and New Drivers, part of which looked at their involvement in road accidents.

A copy of this report has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

### Siemens

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Siemens or its subsidiaries since February 2009. [303762]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport has awarded one contract through the Highways Agency for Regional Control Centre Operational Telephony Service Management to Siemens plc on 20 August 2009. The value of the contract on award was £3,320,000.

Siemens has several hundred subsidiary companies and to carry out a search across the Department for contacts with all of these companies would incur disproportionate costs.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Armed Forces

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the number of soldiers of the Afghan national army who are fully trained; and what proportion of these are serving in Helmand province. [303910]

**Bill Rammell:** The total number of Afghan national army currently stands at approximately 96,000. This total includes soldiers that have completed training and those who are still going through training.

As announced by the Prime Minister on 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 300, there were only 4,200 Afghan soldiers in Helmand last year; this year there are already an extra 50 per cent, more than 6,000, and more on the way.

As recently made clear by the Prime Minister, we will continue to work closely with the Government of Afghanistan and the International Community to build the capacity of the Afghan national security forces.

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to improve the energy efficiency of forward operating bases in Afghanistan. [304477]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Work is in hand to ensure equipment deployed at forward operating bases in Afghanistan is configured, managed and used to minimise energy consumption as far as is practicable. This includes monitoring and analysing energy use, insulating operational accommodation, and making more efficient use of diesel generators. We are also exploring options such as the use of solar power, advanced thermoelectric generators and energy storage devices. A number of the proposals are being evaluated for potential deployment to further reduce energy use and vulnerability at forward operating bases.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will introduce groin protection plates as an addition to personal body armour for armed forces personnel deployed in Helmand province. [304727]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** We are continually seeking ways to further protect our personnel, and work is well under way to research ways of providing additional protection including for the whole of the perineal area.

### Air Force: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average unit tour interval of each Royal Air Force regiment was at the latest date for which information is available. [304375]

**Bill Rammell:** The average unit tour interval for the RAF Regiment Field Squadrons, i.e. the interval between overseas deployments, is 15 months as at 3 December 2009. This figure continues to improve reflecting increased recruitment and action taken earlier this year to increase the RAF Regiment. An additional Force Protection Wing and Force Protection Squadron have been added to the Regiment's strength, bringing the total to seven Force Protection Wings and Squadrons.

### Aircraft Carriers

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned in-service dates are for the two new aircraft carriers. [304348]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 649W, to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis).

The latest cost and time estimates are currently going through the Department's approval process. As is normal practice, we will not make any announcements until this process has completed.

### Armed Forces: Absence Without Leave

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have been absent without leave in each month of 2009 to date. [304366]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information is not held in the format requested. Centrally held information relates to the number of Absent Without Leave incidents and not to the number of personnel. Additionally, data are only available by month in respect of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. In respect of the Army, only the year to date total is held centrally and to obtain this information by month will require a manual search of records which could only be provided at disproportionate cost. The available figures are provided in the following table.

AWOL statistics are recorded by the number of incidences reported, because the figures may include Service Personnel who have been AWOL on more than one occasion. Furthermore, following the reporting of an incidence of AWOL, information may later come to light of extenuating circumstances for that unauthorised absence, such as compassionate, hospitalisation or travel delays beyond the individual's control. In such cases a service person may not be formally charged but the incidence is still recorded.

| | Royal Navy | Army | Royal Air Force |
|---|---|---|---|
| January | 5 | — | 1 |
| February | 10 | — | 0 |

| | *Royal Navy* | *Army* | *Royal Air Force* |
|---|---|---|---|
| March | 10 | — | 0 |
| April | 5 | — | 0 |
| May | 10 | — | 0 |
| June | 10 | — | 0 |
| July | 10 | — | 0 |
| August | 5 | — | 1 |
| September | 10 | — | 0 |
| October | 10 | — | 1 |
| November | 5 | — | 3 |
| Total | 80 | [1]1,695 | 6 |

[1] This is the number of recorded incidences, not the number of people AWOL or the number of charges brought.

*Note:*

Figures for the Royal Navy and Army rounded to nearest 5.

## Armed Forces: Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the amount of energy consumed by HM forces in the last year. [304479]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The estimated energy consumed across the MOD in financial year 2008-09 and the associated $CO_2$ emissions are provided in the following table.

In many areas of Defence, civil servants work alongside serving members of the Armed Forces. This makes it impossible to distinguish between energy used by HM Armed Forces and that used by civil servants. As such, the figures provided are for the MOD as a whole.

| | | *Motive fuel* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Estate energy* | *Ground* | *Aviation* | *Marine* | *Business administrative travel* | *Total* |
| Energy (TWh) | 6.0 | 0.9 | 10.3 | 2.7 | n/a | 19.9 |
| $CO_2$ (Mt) | 1.6 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 5.6 |

These data have been calculated using the DEFRA 2008 conversion factors. This is to ensure that Estate emissions data are comparable with previous years, enabling us to demonstrate a 12.5 per cent. reduction against our 1999-2000 baseline—thus meeting the Government target two years early.

The DEFRA conversion factors do not provide a mechanism for converting miles travelled on business into TWh so the data have only been provided as $CO_2$ emissions.

Further information about the calculation of MOD energy use can be found on the UK Defence Statistics Website at the following link:

http://bravo.dasa.r.mil.uk/modintranet/UKDS/UKDS2009/c7/sec1intro.html

## Armed Forces: Housing

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward proposals to build new soldier accommodation in *(a)* Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, *(b)* the Highlands and *(c)* Scotland. [304650]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Department is in the process of finalising its 2010 Planning Round which sets out its plans for the coming years. It would be premature to provide details but the building of new accommodation in Scotland will be given due consideration in the context of other defence priorities.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many houses owned by his Department in *(a)* Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, *(b)* the Highlands and *(c)* Scotland are rated as grade (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three and (iv) four. [304652]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Service family accommodation (SFA) is assessed by Standard for Condition (SfC), an objective assessment of the physical condition of the property. Properties are rated from S1fC (the highest) to S4fC (the lowest). The Ministry of Defence (MOD) no longer allocates properties at S4fC, and no family is required to live in properties at S4fC other than by personal choice.

Properties at S3fC are only allocated where no other property is available. The MOD aims to have all UK SFA at Standard 1 or 2 for Condition by 2013, and all properties at S1fC by 2020. It is not possible to provide the information in the format requested, however, current SfC data for Scotland are provided in the following table:

| *Standard for Condition (SfC)* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| S1fC | 3,102 |
| S2fC | 123 |
| S3fC | 1 |
| S4fC | 0 |
| Total | 3,226 |

In addition, SFA is assessed by Grade for Charge (GfC), an assessment that sets the level of charges that families pay. This assessment takes into account not only the physical condition of the property but also environmental factors, such as noise and proximity to local amenities. It is therefore possible for SFA to have a high SfC assessment but a low GfC. Again, it is not possible to provide the information in the format requested, however SFA in Scotland is at the following GfC:

| *Grade for Charge* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Grade 1 | 1,116 |
| Grade 2 | 1,336 |
| Grade 3 | 481 |
| Grade 4 | 293 |
| Total | 3,226 |

## Armed Forces: Pay

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* overpayments and *(b)* underpayments of salary there were to armed forces personnel resident in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency in each month since January 2008; and of what amount in each case. [304648]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1363W, to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Willie Rennie).

## Armed Forces: Pensions

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans receive pensions under the provisions of the *(a)* Gurkha Pension Scheme, *(b)* Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005 and *(c)* Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975; and if he will make a statement. [304770]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** As at 30 September 2009 the number of members and dependants receiving pensions under the Gurkha Pension Scheme was 24,164, the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005 was 1,281 and the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 was 371,140.

## British Atomic Veterans' Claimants Group

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received from the British Atomic Veterans' Claimants Group. [303470]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I received a letter dated 11 November 2009 on behalf of the British Atomic Veterans Claimant Group. I understand that a similar letter was sent to all Members of Parliament with one or more atomic veterans in their constituency.

The letter explains that many of the veterans view recognition as more important than substantial compensation. I should therefore like to reiterate the statement I made in the House on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 421-24, which is that the Ministry of Defence recognises the debt of gratitude we have to the servicemen who took part in the nuclear tests. They were important tests that helped to keep this nation secure at a difficult time in terms of nuclear technology. There is a memorial to British Nuclear Test Veterans at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

At the conclusion of his judgment Mr. Justice Foskett said

> "The Government is, of course, pledged to settle legal cases by alternative dispute resolution in all suitable cases whenever the other party agrees to it. In my view, this is such a case".

The Ministry of Defence has adhered to the judge's wish but, unfortunately, I cannot reveal the contents of the negotiations because this would breach the confidentiality agreement between the parties. However, I can say that genuine negotiations have taken place between the parties respective counsels and a settlement proposal was made by the Ministry of Defence (although I cannot disclose the amount). To date, no response has been received from the claimants' counsel or the law firm representing them (Rosenblatts). This is obviously disappointing, but we remain open to meaningful discussions. In the meantime, we have been left with no option but to proceed with our appeal for which the High Court judge has given us permission. I understand the appeal is listed for a three week window starting on 4 May 2010.

## Capita

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and his Department have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts since 1997. [303064]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions Capita Gro~~up plc~~ tendered for contracts let by his Department in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much his Department paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc hold with his Department; and what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between his Department and Capita Group plc. [303154]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Information regarding how many occasions Capita Group plc has tendered for contracts let by MOD in each of the last five years, and how many such tenders were successful, is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

In the last five complete financial years, the amount of money paid to companies that are part of the Capita Group plc is provided in the following table:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 4.4 |
| 2005-06 | 4.6 |
| 2006-07 | 3.3 |
| 2007-08 | 3.5 |
| 2008-09 | 4.2 |

*Note*
Rounded to nearest £100,000

The MOD Financial Management Shared Service Centre (FMSSC) contracts database currently shows seven contracts with Capita Group plc that are expected to terminate after 31 December 2010 at a current total value of £52 million (rounded to the nearest million).

## Cluster Munitions

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether cluster munitions are stored at *(a)* RAF Lakenheath and *(b)* other RAF bases occupied and controlled by US visiting forces. [303581]

**Bill Rammell:** The United States Visiting Force (USVF) stores various weapons in the UK. The USVF inventory of weapons is declared annually to the Ministry of Defence who ensure all weapons are appropriately licensed and stored. For operational and security reasons, and to ensure relations between the UK and US are not prejudiced, it would be inappropriate to disclose the numbers, types and locations of such weapons.

## Defence Equipment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many equipment failure reports *(a)* were filed in each year since 2003 and *(b)* have been filed for each armoured vehicle type in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [304373]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** As reported by the users, the approximate number of equipment failure reports filed in each year since 2003, for each armoured vehicle types are provided in the following table.

| Vehicle type | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 (so far) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AS90 | 408 | 237 | 179 | 101 | 56 | 136 | 119 |
| AFV430 Mk2 | 447 | 480 | 363 | 325 | 289 | 262 | 246 |
| Bulldog | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 165 | 278 | 89 |
| Challenger 2 | 2,467 | 1,737 | 1,629 | 1,369 | 1,148 | 1,503 | 1,359 |
| CRARRV | 139 | 356 | 304 | 226 | 166 | 148 | 127 |
| CVR(T) | 445 | 252 | 194 | 372 | 304 | 465 | 333 |
| Fuchs | 29 | 5 | 8 | 19 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mastiff | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 163 | 317 | 206 |
| Panther | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 124 | 561 |
| Ridgback | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 51 |
| Saxon | 45 | 66 | 21 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Shielder | 6 | 3 | 15 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 2 |
| Stormer | 67 | 54 | 59 | 30 | 50 | 62 | 38 |
| Snatch | 48 | 211 | 380 | 362 | 117 | 21 | 20 |
| Titan | n/a | n/a | n/a | 153 | 418 | 333 | 141 |
| Trojan | n/a | n/a | n/a | 131 | 677 | 469 | 597 |
| Vector | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 56 | 189 | 59 |
| Viking | 0 | 71 | 52 | 48 | 122 | 59 | 9 |
| Warrior | 590 | 668 | 576 | 899 | 603 | 738 | 530 |

The Equipment Failure Reporting System (EFRS) is the mandated system for equipment users to report failures, such as accidental damage, maintenance related failures and breakdowns, or the failure of an item fitted to the vehicle. It does not incorporate the results of subsequent investigations and therefore does not differentiate between what might later prove to have been a problem caused by operator error or damage sustained as a result of operations. Nor do these dates record the severity of a failure which might have no discernible impact on operational capability or safety.

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what equipment over the value of £100,000 his Department has authorised the armed forces to gift to other nations in each of the last five years. [305055]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The following equipment gifts to other nations, valued above £100,000, were authorised by the Department in the last five years:

*2009-10*

Four permanent structures and contents, located within the contingency operating base, Basra, were gifted to the United States of America on the withdrawal of UK forces. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 8 May 2009. Value £456,886.

*2008-09*

Military equipment gifted to the Pakistani Government. Value £174,712.

Non-lethal equipment including vehicles and Barrett radios to the Government of Sierra Leone. Value £101,300.

*2007-08*

49 Jaguar spares and a Challenger 2 Loader Trainer to the Government of Oman. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 24 April 2007. Value £1,174,178. This is £50,000 less than reported to Parliament in the departmental minute. This is because the value of the Challenger 2 Loader Trainer was reduced from £150,000 to £100,000.

15 x Up-armoured light protected vehicles (High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs)) and a support package to the Government of Afghanistan. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 10 July 2007. Value £1,620,000.

25 field ambulances to the Government of Afghanistan. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 4 March 2008. Value £1,516,320.

Corrimecs, ablution units and associated accommodation stores to the European Union force (EUFOR). Value £105,000.

Ammunition to the Afghan Territorial Force Helmand Province. Value £180,000.

3 x Search Equipment Sets to the Lebanese Government. Value £115,345. Infrastructure, accommodation and miscellaneous stores to the Iraqi Palace Protection Force. Value £178,079.

Demining equipment to the Sudanese mine action office. Value £166,789.

*2006-07*

Three infrastructure projects and equipment to the Iraqi Government. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 18 April 2006. Value £20,363,000.

Camp Smitty and Camp Driftwood infrastructure to the Government of Iraq. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 21 June 2006. Value £314,000.

Camp Abu Naji (Maysan) Infrastructure to the Government of Iraq. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 28 June 2006. Value £291,000.

Up to 50 type 110 Landrovers to the Lebanese armed forces. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 9 October 2006. Value £1,000,000.

Cash gift to the Afghan Government to equip Afghan Territorial Force in Helmand Province. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 30 October 2006. Value £500,000.

Non-lethal military equipment for the Palestinian presidential guard. Details of the transfer were notified in a departmental minute dated 8 February 2007. Value £375,627.

Non-lethal military equipment to the Government of Nepal. Details of the transfer were notified in a departmental minute dated 12 February 2007. Value £850,000.

*2005-06*

Infrastructure, vehicles and communication equipment to the Government of Iraq. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 12 October 2005. Value £15,500,000.

Infrastructure and police vehicles to the Government of Iraq. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 11 January 2006. Value £19,600,000.

Non-lethal explosive ordnance device (EOD) equipment to the Government of Nepal. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 25 May 2005. Value £376,260. (This replaced the withdrawn proposal originally notified on 20 January 2005.)

Operational ration packs to the Government of the USA in aid of Hurricane Katrina. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons retrospectively in a departmental minute dated 6 February 2006. Value £3,114,845.

*2004-05*

Non-lethal military equipment to the Government of Nepal. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 10 May 2004. Value £3,530,000.

Non-lethal military equipment to the Government of Sierra Leone. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 23 June 2004. Value £4,476,000.

Military equipment and infrastructure to the Iraqi Interim Government. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 10 November 2004. Value £2,500,000.

Military equipment to the Iraqi Interim Government. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 2 December 2004. Value £15,000,000.

Military equipment to the Iraqi Interim Government. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 15 December 2004. Value £3,600,000.

Non-lethal equipment to the Palestinian Authority. Value £450,000. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 20 December 2004. Value £450,000.

Military equipment to the Iraqi Interim Government. Details of the transfer were notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute dated 25 January 2005. Value £6,200,000.

## Defence Medical Services: Manpower

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel in each medical and dental personnel division in the Defence Medical Services are *(a)* required and *(b)* trained. [304825]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 906-07W.

## Defence: International Cooperation

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flights the United Kingdom have used under the NATO Strategic Airlift Interim Solution since March 2006; and what the *(a)* total cost and *(b)* cost per flight has been. [303000]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Since March 2006 there have been 141 one way flights undertaken using the NATO Strategic Airlift Interim Solution, at a total cost of £25 million. The estimated cost per flight is £178,000.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* pallets and *(b)* tonnes of military equipment and cargo have been shipped to Afghanistan by (i) the Royal Air Force and (ii) aircraft leased under the NATO Strategic Airlift Interim Solution. [303001]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Information regarding the number of pallets airlifted is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Between 1 November 2008 and 31 October 2009 a total of 7,726 tonnes of freight have been airlifted to Afghanistan by RAF transport aircraft.

In the same time period 2,460 tonnes have been delivered using aircraft chartered under the NATO Strategic Airlift Interim Solution.

## Departmental Contracts

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria his Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department has spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303130]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Ministry of Defence uses the most economically advantageous tender as the criterion for determining the award of contracts. This includes sub-criteria such as quality, price, technical merit, functional and environmental characteristics. Straightforward, low-value purchases may, however, be made on the basis of the tender that meets our requirement and offers the lowest price.

The Ministry of Defence has not spent any money on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997, when following a competition the Department placed a contract to provide this service, which is funded by subscriptions from potential tenderers.

## EU Battlegroups

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what unit will form the UK's commitment to the EU battle group in the first half of 2010. [304370]

**Bill Rammell:** The UK's commitment to one of the two EU Battlegroups on standby in the first half of 2010 will be formed from 42 Commando and the Joint Force Headquarters.

## Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of service veterans who were present at atomic weapons tests in the 1950s and 1960s who have died of conditions connected to their service in each of the last five years. [305185]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The War Pensions Scheme provides no-fault compensation to all former service personnel where illness, injury or death is caused by service before 6 April 2005.

Although the war pension computer system contains details of medical conditions relating to claims for war disablement pensions, details of the specific causes of these medical conditions are not recorded. Therefore to provide the information requested would require the manual search of many thousands of files and this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Germany: British Forces Post Office

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the future of the British Forces Post Office in Germany. [304328]

**Bill Rammell:** From September 2010, BFPO 109 (Ramstein) will see an adjusted service. Armed forces personnel will no longer fulfil the postal functions and some counter services will cease, however, we will employ dependants and civilians locally to run a basic postal receipt and despatch facility. Critically, the BFPO number, which is so useful for administrative purposes such as banking and internet shopping, will be retained. No further changes to British Forces Post Offices in Germany are currently planned.

### Iraq and Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of allegations of rape involving members of *(a)* UK forces and *(b)* private security firms registered in the UK in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan since 2001; and what steps he has taken in response to those reports. [304055]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** In respect of UK Forces only, the information is not held in the format requested.

Any allegation of an offence involving UK Forces is fully investigated by the relevant Service Police authorities and if there is sufficient evidence to refer a disciplinary or criminal charge they will do so in accordance with the Armed Forces Act of 2006.

Private security firms are not the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence and as such are not subject to military law where the service police have jurisdiction.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* court cases and *(b)* courts martial remain outstanding regarding accusations against British troops involved in the Iraq conflict. [303567]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** 15 judicial review proceedings have been issued relating to accusations of mistreatment and challenging the extra-territorial application of the ECHR in Iraq. In addition, proceedings have been issued in 46 personal injury claims. The MOD has also been notified of 36 potential judicial reviews, and letters of claim have been received in 21 personal injury claims. Some of these cover the same alleged incidents and claimants. All allegations are investigated as fully as possible.

There are no such cases where courts-martial are outstanding.

### Kentigern House

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff were employed at his Department's Kentigern House site in Glasgow in each of the last 10 years. [305280]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The approximate number of staff working at Kentigern House in Glasgow over the past 10 years is shown in the table.

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| 2009 | 1,400 |
| 2008 | 1,510 |
| 2007 | 1,800 |
| 2006 | 1,750 |
| 2005 | 1,740 |
| 2004 | 1,660 |
| 2003 | 1,750 |
| 2002 | 1,700 |
| 2001 | 1,800 |
| 2000 | 1,540 |

Roughly 60 per cent. of staff work for the Army personnel centre and the remainder are either attached to various other MOD organisations or contractors.

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maintenance costs were for his Department's Kentigern House site in Glasgow in each of the last 10 years. [305282]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The following table illustrates the maintenance costs for the Kentigern House site since Financial Year (FY) 2004-05.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 820,616 |
| 2005-06 | 930,733 |
| 2006-07 | 450,475 |
| 2007-08 | 312,072 |
| 2008-09 | 425,701 |

Records of specific maintenance costs prior to 2003 which were provided under a different system are not available.

### Reserve Forces

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what savings or efficiency measures are being made from the *(a)* Royal Naval Reserve and *(b)* Royal Auxiliary Air Force budgets in 2009-10. [304376]

**Bill Rammell:** The budget for training Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Marine Reserve for financial year 2009-10 has been reduced by £0.189 million. The reduction is being managed by individual units.

The budget for RAF Honnington, which runs eight Royal Auxiliary Air Force squadrons, has been reduced by £0.5 million for financial year 2009-10. This has been achieved by reducing the number of training days.

Neither of these reductions will affect bounty payments, or support to current operations.

### Scientists

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions he has met *(a)* the Government chief scientific adviser and *(b)* his Department's chief scientific adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303963]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I have not met the Government chief scientific adviser since my appointment. As with other senior departmental advisers, I meet with the Ministry of Defence chief scientific adviser as required in the course of my official duties.

### Somalia: Piracy

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the terms of reference for Operation Atalanta are; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation to date; how many war ships from each country are involved in the operation; and if he will make a statement. [300485]

**Bill Rammell:** Operation Atalanta does not have terms of reference as such. The tasks of the mission, set out in a mandate agreed by member states, are the protection of vessels of the WFP (World Food Programme) delivering food aid to displaced persons in Somalia; the protection of vulnerable vessels cruising off the Somali coast; and the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast.

The conduct of the mission is governed by an operation plan (OPLAN) drawn up by the operation commander (currently Rear Admiral Peter Hudson Royal Navy) and agreed by member states.

Our assessment is that Operation Atalanta continues to be an effective counter piracy operation. Pirate activity in the Gulf of Aden has dramatically reduced and we are seeing unprecedented coordination between international navies and merchant shipping. Furthermore, as at 13 November 2009 the EU naval force had successfully escorted 51 World Food Programme (WFP) vessels, carrying 290,000 tons of aid to Somalia.

The number of warships assigned to Operation Atalanta (as of 20 November) are as follows:

| *Country* | *Number of ships* |
|---|---|
| France | 1 |
| Germany | 1 |
| Netherlands | [1]1 |
| Belgium | 1 |
| Greece | 1 |
| Norway | 1 |
| Spain | [2]1+1 |

[1] Flag ship

[2] The second Spanish frigate is available to the operation commander.

### Trident Missiles

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to modify the gas transfer system of the Trident warhead as part of the Mk4A refurbishment programme; and in which country the gas transfer system will be manufactured. [304340]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence on 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 911W. As for any modifications planned for this system, it is Ministry of Defence policy not to comment on details of UK warhead design as to do so would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security and defence in the UK.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected cost is of the Mk4A refurbishment programme for Trident warheads; and what proportion of this expenditure he expects to be incurred in the United States. [304341]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The overall cost to the UK of procuring the Mk4A component was an element of the estimated future costs of the Atomic Weapons Establishment as set out in chapter five of the White Paper 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cmd 6994), published in December 2006.

I am withholding further details on the costs of the Mk4A programme as their release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security and defence in the UK.

### USA: Defence

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason *(a)* the classification guidelines CG-UK-2 for the exchange of material between the UK and the US were produced in 2006 and *(b)* the new classification guidelines CG-US-UK-NUC-1 were produced in 2008. [303887]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Both of these documents were produced jointly by the UK and US in an effort to harmonise security classification guidance relating to sensitive nuclear information.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has had recent discussions with the devolved administrations on steps to reduce levels of crime by reducing the availability of cheap alcohol. [304208]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Home Office has not had any recent discussions with devolved Administrations relating to the impact of cheap alcohol on levels of crime.

### Antisocial Behaviour: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on the level of anti-social behaviour of a minimum unit price for alcohol. [304206]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** We understand that there is a real concern about the possible links between cheap alcohol and antisocial behaviour. However, the evidence is inconclusive as to whether the introduction of a minimum unit price would reduce alcohol related crime and disorder. While there is evidence that cheap alcohol is linked to people drinking more and subsequent harm to their health, it is important that any Government interventions reduce harm without impacting unduly on the majority of responsible drinkers. We will look to develop further the evidence base in this area with a view to identifying concrete proposals for action which reduce irresponsible, harmful and/or binge drinking without impacting unduly on the majority of responsible drinkers.

### Asylum

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which 50 parliamentary constituencies the UK Border Agency received the highest number of enquiries regarding asylum cases that are *(a)* legacy cases, *(b)* non-legacy cases and *(c)* out-of-country visa applications ranked from highest to lowest in each of the last four years. [302097]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is not available in the format required and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

### British Nationality: Assessments

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the administration of the citizenship tests has cost since the inception of such tests. [303110]

**Mr. Woolas:** UKBA have a commercial contract with the Ufi (formerly University for industry) to provide the Life in the UK test. Candidates taking the Life in the UK test pay a fee of £34 to the test centre. There is no limit on how many times a candidate may take the test and the fee is payable each time a test is taken. The fee is set at a level to meet the costs of delivering the overall testing service, there are no costs incurred by UKBA.

### Burglary

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many burglaries were recorded by police in *(a)* England and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire in each of the last 10 years. [303641]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information on the number of burglaries recorded by the police in England is given in the following tables. Data for North East Cambridgeshire are not collected centrally.

*Table 1: Offences of burglary recorded by the police in England—2000-01 and 2001-02*

| | *Number of offences* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 869,704 |
| 2000-01 | 803,144 |
| 2001-02 | 846,301 |

*Table 2: Offences of burglary recorded by the police in England—2002-03 to 2008-09*[1]

| | *Number of offences* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 851,988 |
| 2003-04 | 783,970 |
| 2004-05 | 649,973 |
| 2005-06 | 617,726 |
| 2006-07 | 594,297 |
| 2007-08 | 556,259 |
| 2008-09 | 555,137 |

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in 2002/03 and data before and after that date are not directly comparable.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of burglary were received by the police in *(a)* Ashford constituency and *(b)* Kent in each year since 2005. [304924]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information on reports of burglary received by the police is not available centrally. The available information relates to offences of burglary recorded by the police in the Ashford local authority area and the Kent police force area and is given in the following table.

*Offences of burglary recorded by the police in the Ashford local authority area and the Kent police force area*

| | | *Number of offences* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Ashford* | *Kent* |
| 2005-06 | 987 | 16,518 |
| 2006-07 | 971 | 16,708 |
| 2007-08 | 970 | 14,591 |
| 2008-09 | 877 | 12,822 |

### Crime and Disorder Act 1988

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 16 years have been convicted of an offence under section 1(10) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988 in each of the last five years. [301794]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information is provided by the Ministry of Justice on how many people under the age of 16 years have been convicted of an offence under section 1(10) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988 in each of the last five years.

Centrally collected data on breaches of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) are currently available for ASBOs issued between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2007. The available published data show that during that period 3,853 persons aged between 10 and 17 were convicted of breaching their ASBO on at least one occasion. No breakdown by year is available.

### Crime: Offensive Weapons

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving the use of a knife were recorded by police in *(a)* England and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire constituency in each of the last 10 years. [303187]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Home Office has collected data on knife and sharp instrument offences since April 2007 via a special additional data collection. Data are therefore only available for two years. The data are collected at force level only, so data for North East Cambridgeshire are not available.

In 2007-08, the data collection covered the following offences: attempted murder, GBH and robbery. The total number of offences involving the use of a knife/sharp instrument recorded by the police in England in 2007-08 was close to 24,000.

In 2008-09, the collection was expanded to include threats to kill, ABH, rape and sexual assaults. Therefore, the figures between the two years are not comparable. The total number of offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police in England in 2008-09 was close to 35,000.

There is a further reason why the figures are not fully comparable. Some forces in 2007-08 included, for technical reasons, a number of 'unbroken' bottle offences, which is outside the defined scope of the collection. For 2008-09, the majority of forces within England could supply data excluding unbroken bottles, with four Home Office forces still unable to remove them from their returns.

These figures do not include homicide, as these are collected from the separate Homicide Index. In 2007-08, there were 259 knife or sharp instrument homicides in England. Figures for 2008-09 are pre-announced to be published on the 21 January 2010.

### DNA: Databases

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether any Government Ministers have a record on the National DNA Database; [304025]

(2) how many *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* police officers, *(c)* children, *(d)* old age pensioners, *(e)* members of the House of Lords and *(f)* judges have records on the National DNA Database. [304026]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The National DNA Database (NDNAD) is an intelligence database which matches DNA found at crime scenes with DNA profiles of individuals. It also provides police with potential leads on the identity of an offender. An individual may have their DNA profile loaded onto the NDNAD if they have been arrested for a recordable offence or if they have volunteered their DNA to assist in a criminal investigation and also provided separate written consent for the resulting profile to be loaded onto the NDNAD.

The NDNAD stores only limited personal information about the identity of those with a profile held on it. Only an individual's name, date of birth, gender and ethnic appearance are recorded. Details of occupation are not held therefore it is not possible to say how many Government Ministers, hon. Members, Members of the House of Lords or judges have a DNA profile held on the NDNAD.

As with the other occupations listed in the question, it is not possible to give the number of police officers with a profile held on the NDNAD. A police officer may have voluntarily given a DNA sample for the NDNAD, or, like any other citizen, a police officer arrested for a recordable offence may have a DNA sample taken as a result.

However, there is also a separate DNA database known as the Police Elimination Database (PED) which holds the DNA profiles of serving police officers, who are potentially capable of leaving DNA at a crime scene in the course of their duties. PED searches are carried out only if a senior investigating officer requests a comparison of DNA profiles from a specified officer or officers with a DNA profile from a specified crime, unlike NDNAD searches which compare all profiles from crime scenes with all profiles from known individuals. Since 1 August 2002, all new recruits to the police service have been required to give a DNA sample as a condition of employment. As at 30 September 2009 there were 118,699 records held on the PED for England and Wales police forces. However, as the PED also holds the profiles of certain police staff such as scenes of crime officers and vehicle examiners and does not contain the details of people's professions, we are not able to state how many of these records relate to police officers.

As the date of birth of an individual is recorded alongside their profile it is possible to provide information on the number of profiles belonging to children and over 65s held on the NDNAD. This information (for England and Wales police forces only) is provided in the table and reflects the individual's age on 16 October 2009.

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because some of the profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, an individual may have more than one profile held on the NDNAD. This may happen if, for example, an individual gives a different name on different arrest occasions. The existence of replicates does not affect the integrity or effectiveness of the NDNAD. The current replication rate across the entire NDNAD is 13.8 per cent.

The data presented are based on a snapshot of the NDNAD as at 16 October 2009. The data on the NDNAD are constantly changing as records are added and removed, hence the figures are a snapshot of the records at a single point in time. The data are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

*Table showing number of profiles belonging to children aged under 18 and adults aged 65 and over held on the NDNAD at 16 October 2009 (England and Wales forces only)*

| *Age* | *Number of profiles*[1] |
|---|---:|
| Under 10 | 0 |
| 10-15 | 117,266 |
| 16-17 | 190,897 |
| 65 and over | 117,450 |

[1] Due to replication on the NDNAD the number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. The replication rate across the whole NDNAD (all forces) is estimated at 13.8 per cent.

*Source:*

National DNA Database, NPIA, as at 16 October 2009

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the report of the Human Genetics Commission entitled Nothing to hide, nothing to fear, whether he has received evidence of people being arrested for the purposes of adding their DNA samples to the National DNA Database; and if he will make a statement. [304027]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** There is no objective evidence to suggest that the police are arresting people for the purpose of obtaining their DNA. The taking of a person's liberty by arresting them is not undertaken lightly. That is why the power of arrest is subject to a test of necessity, set out in section 24 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). Police officers are also required to have regard to the statutory guidance in the exercise of the power of arrest, which is set out in Code of Practice G, one of the codes of practice issued under PACE.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of *(a)* black, *(b)* Asian and *(c)* white males aged between 18 and 35 years have records on the National DNA Database. [304060]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It is not possible at present to calculate accurately the proportion of members of ethnic groups in the population as a whole who are on the NDNAD. This is because the data held on the NDNAD are not directly comparable with census population data. The NDNAD does not hold self-reported ethnicity data on arrested persons who have a DNA sample taken, but on their 'ethnic appearance'. The ethnic appearance data is based on the judgment of the police officer and is recorded for police intelligence purposes to assist in subsequent identification. It uses six broad ethnic categories (plus 'unknown') whereas census data are based on 16 ethnic groups self-reported by individuals.

Estimates of the proportion of different ethnic groups on the NDNAD calculated by simply dividing the number of profiles by the population data will give an inaccurate estimate as a number of other factors also need to be taken into account. Examples of these factors are the number of profiles from persons of mixed race, the number of profiles of unknown ethnicity, the number of replicate profiles and the use of comparable up-to-date population data. The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is working to produce an estimate which is as accurate and robust as possible.

Data are available on the number of DNA profiles from people with black, asian or white ethnic appearance aged between 18 and 35 years on the NDNAD. The following table displays the number of subject profiles retained on the NDNAD as at 16 October 2009 for males aged 18-35 inclusive (based on current age as at 16 October 2009) for England and Wales police forces, including the British Transport Police (BTP). The figures cover all subject profiles.

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because some of the profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, an individual may have more than one profile held on the NDNAD. This may happen if, for example, an individual gives a different name on different arrest occasions. The existence of replicates does not affect the integrity or effectiveness of the NDNAD. The current replication rate across the entire NDNAD is 13.8 per cent.

The data presented are based on a snapshot of the NDNAD as at 16 October 2009. The data on the NDNAD are constantly changing as records are added and removed, hence the figures are a snapshot of the records at a single point in time. The data are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

*Table showing the number of DNA subject profiles from black, asian and white males aged 18-35 inclusive (based on current age as at 16 October 2009) on the national DNA database (England and Wales forces only, including BTP).*

| *Ethnic appearance category* | *Number of DNA profiles* |
|---|---:|
| Asian | 172,846 |
| Black | 193,593 |
| North European | 1,817,035 |
| South European | 54,630 |

*Source:*
National DNA Database, NPIA, as at 16 October 2009

### Domestic Violence

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people reported incidents of domestic abuse in each of the last three years. [304223]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information on how many incidents of domestic abuse are reported to the police is not centrally available because it is not possible to identify cases of domestic violence reported to and recorded by the police; such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected.

However, the British Crime Survey (BCS), which includes crimes not reported to the police, routinely provides information on the number of incidents of domestic violence in England and Wales; that is, violent incidents perpetrated by a partner, ex-partner or family member. The 2008-09 BCS estimates 293,000 incidents of domestic violence, 343,000 in the 2007-08 BCS and 407, 000 in the 2006-07 BCS (representing a statistically significant fall between 2006-07 BCS and 2008-09 BCS). Of these incidents, the proportion where the victim reported the incident to the police was 47 per cent. in the 2008-09 BCS, 40 per cent. in 2007-08 and 44 per cent. in 2006-07 (no statistically significant change in proportions).

### Domestic Violence: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has made an assessment of a link between alcohol misuse and the incidence of domestic violence. [304207]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The British Crime Survey 2007-08 reports that 37 per cent. of domestic violence incidents involve offenders who are perceived to be under the influence of alcohol.

There are a number of Alcohol Arrest Referral schemes in operation which aim to reduce re-offending among people arrested for alcohol-related offences. People who are arrested on suspicion of alcohol-related domestic violence in AAR pilot areas may be referred to a domestic violence specialist adviser and encouraged to address their behaviour and the consequences of their unsafe drinking.

We will continue to work with our stakeholders to better understand the role that both alcohol and drugs play in contributing to incidents of domestic violence.

### Driving Offences

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date the Motoring Offence and Breath Test statistics for *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 will be published; and if he will make a statement. [303834]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information on police action in relation to motoring offences, as well as breath tests conducted in 2008 will be published as a part of the Home Office Bulletin 'Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales 2008/09'. The bulletin is scheduled to be published in March 2010 and will be available on the Home Office RDS website at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/police-powers.html

The publication date for the same bulletin covering 2009-10 data has yet to be agreed.

### Entry Clearances

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many permits have been granted under *(a)* Tier 1 (general), *(b)* Tier 1 (post study entry), *(c)* Tier 2 (shortage occupation), *(d)* Tier 2 (intra-company transfer), *(e)* Tier 2 (resident labour market test), *(f)* Tier 4 (students) and *(g)* Tier 4 (working holiday makers) scheme in each month since they came into operation. [302154]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The following tables provide detail of the numbers of in-country grants of leave to remain and out of country visas issued under *(a)* Tier 1 (General), *(b)* Tier 1 (Post Study Work), *(d)* Tier 2 (Intra-Company Transfer), *(f)* Tier 4 (students) and *(g)* Tier 5 (Youth Mobility Scheme) in each month since they came into operation. Information relating to approved applications in shortage occupations *(c)*, or for those jobs where a resident labour market test is required *(e)*, is held on the UK Border Agency Sponsor IT System is available only at disproportionate costs.

The working holidaymaker scheme ended on 26 November 2008. A similar scheme Youth Mobility Scheme has been introduced within Tier 5 of the Points Based System. Figures for that scheme are as follows:

2008

| | *(a) Tier 1 (general)* | | *(b) Tier 1 (post study)* | | *(d) Tier 2 (ICT)* | | *(f) Tier 4 (child)* | | *(f) Tier 4 (general)* | | *(g) Tier 5 (youth mobility)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *IC* | *OOC* | *IC* | *OOC* | *IC* | *OOC* | *IC* | *OOC* | *IC* | *OOC* | *IC* | *OOC* |
| March | 33 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| April | 603 | 20 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| May | 1,051 | 128 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| June | 1,944 | 117 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| July | 1,403 | 416 | 86 | 47 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| August | 1,097 | 803 | 1,805 | 84 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| September | 1,321 | 1,145 | 3,132 | 110 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| October | 1,000 | 1,614 | 6,308 | 134 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| November | 1,003 | 1,834 | 6,616 | 178 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| December | 990 | 1,711 | 2,344 | 206 | 11 | 47 | — | — | — | — | — | 372 |

2009

| | *(a) Tier 1 (general)* | | *(b) Tier 1 (post study)* | | *(d) Tier 2 (ICT)* | | *(f) Tier 4 (child)* | | *(f) Tier 4 (general)* | | *(g) Tier 5 (youth mobility)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *IC* | *OOC* | *IC* | *OOC* | *IC* | *OOC* | *IC* | *OOC* | *IC* | *OOC* | *IC* | *OOC* |
| March | 690 | 2,201 | 2,051 | 109 | 185 | 1,082 | — | — | — | — | — | 1,900 |
| April | 1,025 | 2,024 | 4,556 | 375 | 903 | 1,461 | — | — | — | — | — | 1,560 |
| May | 2,401 | 2,176 | 4,551 | 372 | 573 | 1,893 | 15 | — | — | — | — | 1,306 |
| June | 3,205 | 1,864 | 1,857 | 298 | 478 | 1,756 | 367 | 37 | — | 957 | — | 1,169 |
| July | 2,070 | 1,078 | 751 | 338 | 565 | 1,745 | 694 | 77 | 3 | 4,386 | — | 2,096 |
| August | 446 | 783 | 198 | 379 | 831 | 2,163 | 1,995 | 404 | 11 | 12,127 | — | 1,839 |
| September | 429 | 900 | 1,132 | 380 | 806 | 2,000 | 5,361 | 1,231 | 13 | 30,528 | — | 1,555 |
| October | 422 | 984 | 1,292 | 356 | 528 | 1,975 | 5,190 | 3,101 | 19 | 53,572 | — | 1,104 |
| November | 464 | 640 | 1,700 | 396 | 463 | 2,109 | 6,921 | 1,080 | 46 | 62,086 | — | 1,124 |
| December | 406 | 643 | 2,235 | 422 | 551 | 1,893 | 9,170 | 260 | 105 | 24,586 | — | 1,231 |

IC = In-country grants of leave to remain.
OOC = Out-of-country visas issued.
Note:
The table is based on approved Main Applications only. This data is not provided under National Statistics protocols. It has been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

## Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are plans to change the student visa process; and if he will make a statement. [301427]

**Mr. Woolas:** There are no current plans to change the student visa process introduced on 31 March 2009 with the introduction of tier 4 of the points based system. A review of certain aspects of the system was announced on 12 November.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for entry to the UK under the points-based immigration system had been made by overseas students on the latest date for which figures are available; how many such applications were granted, and in respect of how many such applications the customer service standards set by his Department in relation to such applications were not met. [303281]

**Mr. Woolas:** The number of visa applications for entry as a student under tier 4 of the points based system that were (a) received, and (b) refused, since the implementation of tier 4 on 31 March to September 2009 was 245,915 and 36,434, respectively.

Processing times for tier 4 applications against UK Border Agency customer service standards are shown in the following table.

Information about processing times for the various categories of visa applications at each of our visa application centres overseas is available on the Visa Services website

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

*PBS tier 4 visa application processing times*

|  |  | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
|  | *Customer service standard* | *Global processing times April to October 2009* |
| Not more than three weeks | 90 | 79 |
| Not more than six weeks | 98 | 97 |
| Not more than 12 weeks | 100 | 100 |

Note:
These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.
Source:
Central Reference System

## Firearms: Injuries

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency were (i) fatally and (ii) non-fatally wounded by a firearm in each year since 1997. [302928]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Available information relates to crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used, resulting in fatal and non-fatal injury in England and Wales, England, the North East region and Cleveland police force area. Constituency level data are not collected centrally. Data for the period 1997-98 up to and including 2007-08 are given in the following table. Figures for 2008-09, including a breakdown by police force area, will be published on 21 January 2010.

Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.

*Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used[1], resulting in fatal and non-fatal[2] injury, England and Wales, England, North East Region[3] and Cleveland, 1997-98 to 2007-08*

*Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used[1], resulting in fatal and non-fatal[2] injury, England and Wales, England, North East Region[3] and Cleveland, 1997-98 to 2007-08*

|  | *Injury type* |  |
|---|---|---|
| *1997-98* | *Fatal injury* | *Non-fatal injury* |
| England and Wales | 54 | 750 |
| England | 52 | 745 |
| North East Region | 1 | 13 |
| Cleveland | — | 7 |
| *1998-99[4]* |  |  |
| England and Wales | 50 | 815 |
| England | 50 | 807 |
| North East Region | 5 | 12 |
| Cleveland | 1 | 2 |
| *1999-2000* |  |  |
| England and Wales | 62 | 1,133 |
| England | 62 | 1,124 |
| North east region | 6 | 11 |
| Cleveland | 2 | 3 |
| *2000-01* |  |  |
| England and Wales | 72 | 1,310 |
| England | 71 | 1,275 |
| North East Region | 2 | 12 |
| Cleveland | — | 3 |
| *2001-02[5]* |  |  |
| England and Wales | 96 | 1,783 |
| England | 94 | 1,761 |
| North East Region | — | 7 |
| Cleveland | — | 2 |
| *2002-03[6]* |  |  |
| England and Wales | 80 | 2,099 |
| England | 78 | 2,041 |
| North East Region | — | 17 |
| Cleveland | — | 1 |
| *2003-04* |  |  |
| England and Wales | 68 | 2,299 |
| England | 66 | 2,245 |
| North East Region | — | 77 |
| Cleveland | — | 17 |
| *2004-05[7]* |  |  |
| England and Wales | 78 | 1,828 |
| England | 76 | 1,766 |
| North East Region | 1 | 101 |
| Cleveland | — | 54 |
| *2005-06* |  |  |
| England and Wales | 49 | 1,773 |
| England | 48 | 1,670 |
| North East Region | — | 75 |
| Cleveland | — | 28 |
| *2006-07* |  |  |
| England and Wales | 56 | 2,955 |
| England | 56 | 2,855 |
| North East Region | 5 | 40 |
| Cleveland | 1 | 1 |
| *2007-08* |  |  |
| England and Wales | 53 | 3,100 |
| England | 53 | 3,101 |
| North East Region | 1 | 54 |
| Cleveland | — | 6 |

[1] Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.
[2] Non-fatal injuries include serious and slight injuries.
[3] The Northeast Region includes, Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police forces.
[4] There was a change in the counting rules for recordedcrime on 1 April 1998.
[5] Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.
[6] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.
[7] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

## Fraud: Credit Cards

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of credit card fraud relating to remote gambling websites have been recorded in each of the last 10 years. [303707]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested is not available centrally. Offences of credit card fraud relating to remote gambling websites are included in Home Office offence classification 53C 'Fraud by false representation: cheque, plastic cards and online bank accounts'. These offences cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded within that offence classification.

### Homophobia: Crime

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person with a homophobic motive there have been in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Wirral in the last (i) six months, (ii) 12 months, (iii) two years and (iv) five years. [304220]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** There has not been a recent assessment of conviction rates for those accused of crimes of violence with homophobic motives in Merseyside.

In September 2009 we launched the Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan which contains a number of action points designed to reduce numbers of crimes of violence across all five hate crime strands, including sexual orientation. In particular, it commits the Home Office to produce guidance for Crime and Disorder Partnerships on preventing and responding to hate incidents and hate crimes.

There is also a range of activity taking place in the North West to combat hate crime targeted at lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) individuals. For example, bar owners and door staff in and around the areas of Liverpool frequented by LGB communities have recently received hate crime awareness-raising training.

Further, Liverpool's Hate Crime Reduction Forum which brings stakeholders together from across Liverpool to address all strands of hate crime, funded the As One programme which was an educational awareness programme focused on youth centres in the Kensington area encompassing antisocial behaviour and diversity awareness.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who do not work for his Department, its executive agencies, or sponsored non-departmental public bodies, had applied for a voluntary national identity card on the latest date for which figures are available. [305275]

**Meg Hillier:** Since 20 October, and up to and including 3 December, 2,054 applicants have been enrolled or have made an enrolment appointment for an identity card.

The information held on the national identity register does not include the occupation of an individual.

### Immigrants: Detainees

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy not to detain asylum seekers and immigrants whose deportation is not imminent and who are not considered to be a serious threat to society; and if he will make a statement. [303633]

**Mr. Woolas:** Detention is an essential component in maintaining an effective immigration control. It is usually appropriate in the following circumstances: initially, while a person's identity or basis of claim is being established; where there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person will fail to comply with the conditions attached to the grant of temporary admission or release; as part of a fast-track asylum process; or to effect removal.

The decision to detain is made on case by case basis taking account of the individual circumstances in each case. Imminence of removal and risk of harm to the public are factors, among others, considered in reaching a decision.

Detention is kept to the minimum period necessary for the purpose for which it was authorised and is not unduly prolonged. Individuals may prolong their own detention by, for example, refusing to cooperate with the redocumentation process or by frustrating lawful attempts at removal. Detention in each individual case is subject to review at increasingly senior levels within the UK Border Agency to ensure that it only lasts as long as it continues to be justified and necessary.

We believe that the current policies support a requirement to enforce our immigration laws and we therefore have no intention of changing them at this time.

### Immigration

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date he expects the target of deciding all applications for a residence card as the spouse of an EEA national within six months to be met. [303647]

**Mr. Woolas:** UKBA has made significant progress to bring European applications within service standards. All new complete applications for residence cards submitted from 29 July 2009 onwards are being dealt with within six months.

UKBA has significantly reduced the number of outstanding older cases.

Of the remaining cases, a significant proportion are complex or were not submitted with adequate supporting information. To address this issue the agency has written to affected applicants and once the required documentation is provided—the cases will be concluded. All such cases should be resolved by early 2010.

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure that the target of deciding all applications for a residence card as the spouse of an EEA national within six months is met. [303640]

**Mr. Woolas:** UKBA has made significant progress to bring all European applications within service standards. All new complete European applications submitted from 29 July 2009 onwards are being dealt with within service standards with complete EEA1 applications currently decided and dispatched within a matter of working days.

UK Border Agency has reduced the number of outstanding cases from approximately 77,000 in April to 38,000 in November. This has been done through a combination of interventions; increased resources, process improvement and performance management focus.

Of the remaining cases, a significant proportion are complex or were not submitted with adequate supporting information. To address this issue the Agency has written to affected applicants and—once the required documentation is provided—the cases will be concluded. All such cases should be resolved by early 2010.

### Individual Support Orders and Intervention Orders: Finance

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on *(a)* individual support orders and *(b)* intervention orders in each of the last three years. [301881]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Home Office grant to the Youth Justice Board for prevention work has been £15 million for 2009-10, £18 million for 2008-09 and £21 million for 2007-08. This forms part of the overall Youth Justice Board budget of £32 million for evidence-based targeted prevention programmes such Youth Inclusion Support Panels. ISOs are one of the interventions funded from this budget.

The Home Office does not directly fund intervention orders. However, funding to tackle drugs related crime and antisocial behaviour is provided to local areas to deliver drug intervention programmes. These programmes are delivered through Drug Action Teams (DATs), using Criminal Justice Integrated Teams (CJITs) who adopt a case management approach to working with drug-misusing offenders, some of whom will be subject to intervention orders.

### KBR

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [301329]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Home Department and its agencies have not entered into any new contracts with Kellogg Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009.

The Home Department has one existing contract in place with Kellogg Brown and Root for the provision of National Emergency Mortuary Arrangements which was awarded in 2006 and expires in 2016.

### Parenting Orders

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parenting orders have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in each year since 1997. [302440]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Parenting orders were piloted between 30 September 1998 and 31 March 2000 and commenced in England and Wales in June 2000.

Data showing the breakdown of parenting orders issued for the period 30 September 1998 and 31 March 2000 are not available. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has since April 2000 collected the number of parenting orders issued by youth offending team (YOT) area, as reported to it by youth offending teams including education-related orders where the YOT has been involved. Since September 2004, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has collected data on the number of parenting orders issued in England related to non-attendance of children at school and exclusion from school at local authority level.

The number of parenting orders relating to crime or antisocial behaviour and those related to education as reported to the YJB by YOT area are shown in table A.

Breach of a parenting order is a criminal offence. Information showing the number of persons proven at court to have breached a parenting order from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in table B. Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

*Table A: Parenting orders by legal basis England and Wales YOTs*

| *England and Wales* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Crime | 725 | [illegible] | 765 | 686 | 979 | 1,069 | 1,014 | 1,049 | 7,094 |
| Education | 96 | 276 | 209 | 215 | 237 | 213 | 166 | 230 | 1,642 |
| Other | 158 | 129 | 202 | 197 | — | — | — | — | 686 |
| Referral Order | — | — | — | — | 176 | 183 | 227 | 295 | 881 |
| ASBO | — | — | — | — | 36 | 33 | 64 | 46 | 179 |
| Sex Offences Prevention Order | — | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Child Safety Order | — | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Free Standing—YOT | — | — | — | — | 7 | 7 | 16 | 8 | 38 |
| Free Standing—LEA | — | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 18 | 21 | 39 |
| Total | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 10,561 |

Note:
Data for Education and Free Standing—LEA categories may not be complete, as YOTs are not always informed of these parenting orders

*Table B: Number of defendants proven at court to have breached a parenting order, under section 9(7) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, from 2003 to 2007¹*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 11 |

*Table B: Number of defendants proven at court to have breached a parenting order, under section 9(7) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, from 2003 to 2007¹*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 20 |

*Table B: Number of defendants proven at court to have breached a parenting order, under section 9(7) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, from 2005 to 2007[1]*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 22 |
| 2006 | 25 |
| 2007 | 31 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

## Police Cautions

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people received *(a)* four, *(b)* five, *(c)* six, *(d)* seven, *(e)* eight, *(f)* nine and *(g)* 10 or more police cautions in each year since 1997; [302438]

(2) how many people received *(a)* four, *(b)* five, *(c)* six, *(d)* seven, *(e)* eight, *(f)* nine and *(g)* 10 or more police cautions in the period between 1997 and 2009. [302439]

**Claire Ward:** have been asked to reply.

The figures requested are in the following tables. Data prior to 2000 has not been included.

*Numbers of offenders receiving different numbers of cautions[1] in each year: England and Wales*

| | Number of offenders receiving: | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1 caution* | *2 cautions* | *3 cautions* | *4 cautions* | *5 cautions* | *6 cautions* | *7 cautions* | *8 cautions* | *9 cautions* | *10 or more cautions* |
| 2000 | 210,490 | 21,842 | 3,934 | 1,243 | 529 | 288 | 148 | 90 | 45 | 137 |
| 2001 | 210,012 | 21,140 | 3,891 | 1,148 | 511 | 220 | 143 | 86 | 51 | 135 |
| 2002 | 213,191 | 20,733 | 3,444 | 1,062 | 401 | 215 | 105 | 48 | 31 | 115 |
| 2003 | 226,467 | 21,904 | 3,610 | 1,042 | 412 | 126 | 99 | 77 | 52 | 106 |
| 2004 | 230,100 | 24,251 | 4,141 | 1,201 | 474 | 221 | 124 | 83 | 47 | 155 |
| 2005 | 265,660 | 29,335 | 5,149 | 1,414 | 566 | 269 | 136 | 81 | 53 | 182 |
| 2006 | 301,443 | 33,369 | 6,252 | 1,747 | 697 | 354 | 164 | 122 | 72 | 266 |
| 2007 | 312,192 | 38,280 | 6,824 | 1,807 | 654 | 350 | 190 | 122 | 67 | 263 |
| 2008 | 285,687 | 34,785 | 5,714 | 1,603 | 581 | 272 | 171 | 88 | 60 | 238 |

[1] Figures include reprimands and final warnings

*Number of offenders receiving different numbers of cautions[1] from 2000-08*

| *Number of offences resulting in a caution* | *Number of offenders* |
|---|---|
| 1 | 1,639,891 |
| 2 | 397,458 |
| 3 | 104,915 |
| 4 | 31,078 |
| 5 | 10,884 |
| 6 | 4,286 |
| 7 | 2,014 |
| 8 | 1,101 |
| 9 | 638 |
| 10 or more | 1,873 |

[1] Figures include reprimands and final warnings

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Guidance to the police and Crown Prosecution Service is clear that if an offender has previously received a simple caution, then a further caution should not normally be considered unless there has been a sufficient lapse of time to suggest that a previous caution had a deterrent effect (two years or more), or if the current offence is trivial or unrelated to any previous offences. Repeat offenders should not receive cautions and ought to be prosecuted at court.

In response to concerns, Ministers announced a review of the use of out-of-court disposals on 9 November. The terms of reference for this review will be announced shortly.

## Raves: Sussex

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of illegal raves which have taken place in each district council area in East Sussex in each of the last five years; and how many *(a)* crimes and *(b)* accidents arising from such events were reported in each such year. [304278]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Home Office does not hold this information.

## Repatriation

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what factors his Department took into account in determining *(a)* the repatriation to Malaysia of Agnes Wong and *(b)* the sum which she was awarded under the Facilitated Returns Scheme; and if he will make a statement; [303322]

(2) what the maximum sum in assistance is that a foreign national can claim under *(a)* the Facilitated Returns Scheme, *(b)* reintegration assistance and *(c)* each other form of assistance provided by his Department. [303324]

**Mr. Woolas:** In accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act, since the hon. Member is not acting on behalf of this individual I am unable to disclose details of her case, the UK Border Agency can not disclose an individual's data to third parties without the consent of the said individual.

The Facilitated Returns Scheme accounted for around a third of the 5,395 foreign national offenders removed in 2008.

The Facilitated Return Scheme offers non European economic area foreign national detainees the opportunity to volunteer to return to their home country rather than await removal by the UK Border Agency. This option saves the United Kingdom taxpayer the considerable costs of detaining foreign nationals and the costly process of pursuing deportation through the courts.

Eligible detainees are those who can be released because they have completed their sentence and are being detained solely under immigration powers (time served); those eligible for the Early Removal Scheme; or non European economic area nationals from countries with which the United Kingdom has a prisoner transfer agreement.

Foreign national offenders removed under this scheme will now receive the equivalent of a discharge grant payable to British prisoners on their release, which is £46. This is paid on departure from the United Kingdom. In addition to this, a further sum of £454 on a pre-paid card will be given on departure which is for use on arrival in the home country.

Those who volunteer to go home at the end of their sentence could receive a grant up to £3,000 when their sentence is finished. A large part of this is in kind.

### Road Traffic Offences

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many traffic offences of each type were recorded by police in *(a)* England and *(b)* North-East Cambridgeshire in each of the last 10 years. [304580]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The Home Office collects data on notifiable offences recorded by the police. Data are available for causing death by dangerous driving, causing death by careless driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs and dangerous driving. Traffic offences such as parking and speeding etc. are not included in the police recorded crime data.

Information on police action relating to motoring offences (penalties issued by the police such as written warnings and fixed penalty notices) can be found in chapter 3 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 'Police Powers and Procedures', which can be viewed on the web link.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/police-powers.html

Data on court proceedings for motoring offences can be found in the Ministry of Justice Bulletin 'Criminal Statistics - England and Wales', which can be viewed on the web link.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminalannual.htm

### Shoplifting: Arrests

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many shoplifters were reported to police in *(a)* England and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire in each of the last 10 years. [304583]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information is not available centrally on the number of shoplifters reported to the police. The available data relate to the number of offences of shoplifting recorded by the police in England and the figures are given in the following tables. Data for North East Cambridgeshire are not collected centrally.

*Table 1: Offences of shoplifting recorded by the police in England 1999-2000 and 2001-02*

| | Number of offences |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 278,243 |
| 2000-01 | 279,198 |
| 2001-02 | 291,609 |

*Table 2: Offences of shoplifting recorded by the police in England 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]*

| | Number of offences |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 294,062 |
| 2003-04 | 286,440 |
| 2004-05 | 265,709 |
| 2005-06 | 279,908 |
| 2006-07 | 278,241 |
| 2007-08 | 274,146 |
| 2008-09 | 302,499 |

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in 2002-03 and data before
and after that date are not directly comparable

**Mr. Ev[illegible]:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* subsequent convictions for offences of shoplifting there have been in each of the last five years. [304774]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]*: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level only, covering categories such as robbery and theft and handling stolen goods. It is not possible to separately identify arrests for shoplifting from within these offence groups. The arrest collection does not include any information on the outcome of arrests.

Information provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of defendants found guilty at courts for shoplifting in England and Wales, 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Data on court proceedings for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

*Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for shoplifting[1] England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[2, 3]*

| *Offence* | *Statute* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting) | Theft Act 1968 Section 1 | 74,928 | 69,542 | 64,076 | 58,536 | 62,565 |

[1] Stealing from 'shops and stalls' (shoplifting) is an offence under Theft Act 1968, Section 1.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

### Speed Limits: Fines

**Nick Ainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers have received a fixed penalty fine for speeding in the 50 mph limit area approaching the Severn Bridge toll booths on the M4 in each of the last four years. [303535]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

Data on fixed penalty notices issued for motoring offences provided to the Home Office are broken down to police force area level only.

### Theft: Bicycles

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bicycles have been reported stolen in each region in each year since 1997. [304284]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The available information relates to the number of thefts of pedal cycles recorded by the police and is given in the following tables.

*Table 1: Offences of theft of a pedal cycle recorded by the police—1997*

| | *Number of offences* |
|---|---|
| English Region and Wales | 1997 |
| North East Region | 6,892 |
| North West Region | 16,882 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber Region | 16,672 |
| East Midlands Region | 13,553 |
| West Midlands Region | 12,173 |
| East of England Region | 16,287 |
| London Region | 17,433 |
| South East Region | 21,408 |
| South West Region | 13,101 |
| Wales | 4,691 |
| Total | 139,092 |

*Table 2: Offences of theft of a pedal cycle recorded by the police 1998-99 to 2001-02[1, 2]*

| | | | | *Number of offences* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *English Region and Wales* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* |
| North East Region | 5,372 | 5,996 | 5,203 | 4,795 |
| North West Region | 14,504 | 15,069 | 12,628 | 11,744 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber Region | 14,542 | 14,375 | 11,902 | 11,336 |
| East Midlands Region | 13,125 | 12,664 | 10,700 | 10,088 |
| West Midlands Region | 11,051 | 10,987 | 9,003 | 8,634 |
| East of England Region | 15,471 | 15,765 | 13,144 | 12,333 |
| London Region | 17,350 | 18,909 | 14,673 | 14,674 |
| South East Region | 20,203 | 21,057 | 17,355 | 15,882 |
| South West Region | 12,176 | 12,009 | 9,962 | 9,555 |
| Wales | 4,403 | 4,492 | 3,720 | 3,672 |
| Total | 128,557 | 131,249 | 108,509 | 102,713 |

1 The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.

2 The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

*Table 3: Offences of theft of a pedal cycle recorded by the police 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]*

| | | | | | | | *Number of offences* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *English Region and Wales* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| North East Region | 4,141 | 4,587 | 4,457 | 4,419 | 4,295 | 4,048 | 3,995 |
| North West Region | 10,765 | 10,862 | 10,080 | 11,744 | 11,010 | 11,243 | 11,014 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber Region | 10,164 | 10,060 | 8,782 | 9,566 | 9,183 | 8,664 | 8,574 |
| East Midlands Region | 6,526 | 8,751 | 8,605 | 8,813 | 8,829 | 8,668 | 8,101 |
| West Midlands Region | 7,021 | 7,149 | 6,499 | 6,999 | 7,157 | 6,852 | 6,377 |
| East of England Region | 11,519 | 12,783 | 13,465 | 14,004 | 13,224 | 12,501 | 12,364 |
| London Region | 16,230 | 19,616 | 19,636 | 21,574 | 18,962 | 17,471 | 18,579 |
| South East Region | 14,540 | 15,901 | 16,910 | 18,340 | 18,191 | 16,683 | 17,461 |
| South West Region | 8,795 | 9,252 | 9,536 | 10,308 | 10,839 | 10,115 | 9,743 |
| Wales | 3,429 | 3,590 | 3,700 | 3,287 | 3,312 | 3,343 | 3,288 |
| Total | 95,018 | 102,520 | 102,560 | 109,664 | 105,702 | 99,588 | 99,496 |

1 The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

### Tobacco: Young People

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences by *(a)* confectioners and tobacconists and *(b)* other retailers related to selling tobacco products to those aged under 16 years were recorded in 2008; how many police cautions for such offences were issued in each year; how many fines were imposed in each year; and what the average fine imposed in each year was. [302259]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information on the number of recorded offences of retailers selling tobacco products to those aged under 16 years is not collected centrally. This is a summary offence and is not included in the police recorded crime statistics.

Statistics on the number of police cautions issued, the number of fines imposed and the average fines are collected by the Ministry of Justice. Statistics for 2008 will be published on 28 January 2010. The Ministry of Justice have advised that for 2007, the latest available year, there was one police caution issued. There were 49 fines imposed and the average fine was £324.

### UK Border Agency: Manpower

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the staff of the Risk and Overseas Liaison Network of the UK Border Agency are UK citizens. [302532]

**Mr. Woolas:** The risk and overseas liaison network of the UK Border Agency has 102 officers acting as immigration liaison managers and immigration liaison officers (formerly risk assessment managers and airline liaison officers), all of whom are British citizens. They are supported by locally engaged staff.

### United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre

**John Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for the future *(a)* management and accountability structures and *(b)* location of the UK Human Trafficking Centre; and if he will make a statement. [303756]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]:* We are currently considering how to enhance the role and status of the UK Human Trafficking Centre. No decision has yet been taken.

### Video Games: Young People

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences in respect of retailers selling video games or DVDs to underage customers *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* in each police force area were recorded in 2007 and 2008; how many related (i) police cautions and (ii) fines were issued in each of those years; and what the average such fine was in each such year. [302258]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information on the number of recorded offences of retailers selling video games or DVDs to underage customers is not collected centrally. This is a summary offence and is not included in the police recorded crime statistics.

Statistics on the number of police cautions issued, the number of fines imposed and the average fines are collected by the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice have advised that there were no cautions given or fines issued for this offence in 2007. Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Capita

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and his Department have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts since 1997. [303085]

**Chris Bryant:** This information is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

### Childbirth

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens have *(a)* given birth whilst abroad and *(b)* registered a birth at a British embassy in each of the last five years. [305279]

**Chris Bryant:** Figures collated by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Consular Directorate relate only to births registered at our Missions overseas.

The number of births registered by consular staff overseas for the last five years are:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| April 2004 to March 2005 | 8,620 |
| April 2005 to March 2006 | 8,764 |
| April 2006 to March 2007 | 8,778 |
| April 2007 to March 2008 | 8,813 |
| April 2008 to March 2009 | 8,189 |

### Departmental Assets

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [300201]

**Chris Bryant:** The Treasury set the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) a property sales target of £18 million for each of the three financial years 2008-11. In 2008-09 disposal of land and buildings by the FCO generated over £61 million, exceeding the full three-year target by £7 million.

FCO's revised 2009-10 property sales target is £8 million of which we have already sold £5.632 million. This is made up of three office buildings, one residence, eight units of staff accommodation, one amenity building and two plots of land at various overseas Posts. A further £3 million (approximately) former office building is under offer.

For financial years 2010-11 to 2013-14 our asset managers have identified, and intend selling, 106 properties as potentially redundant. Their current book values total £71 million. The properties comprises four office buildings, six Heads of Post residences, 86 units of staff accommodation, four plots of land, three amenity complexes and three ancillary buildings.

More sales are likely to arise as part of our active asset management. We continue to keep our entire property portfolio under review, ensuring it provides value for money, fitness for purpose, and security for our staff.

In order to maximise the price received for the sale of our assets, it is not our policy to release details of our sales programme, nor the price we expect to receive, in advance of formal marketing. Details of sales completed are reported quarterly to the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The book value for each property is usually based on open market value as assessed by independent chartered surveyors commissioned as part of our rolling programme of estate revaluations. In most cases, this gives the best indicator of anticipated revenue.

### Embassies: Closures

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British *(a)* embassies, *(b)* high commissions and *(c)* consulates have closed since 1997; what arrangements have been made to safeguard British interests in these circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [301878]

**Chris Bryant:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 948W and the answer by my right hon. Friend, the then Minister for Europe, (Mr. Hoon) on 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 821W.

Of the 31 diplomatic posts closed, 18 were consulates or other subordinate posts in countries where our Embassy or High Commission remains open. Elsewhere, we have made arrangements to safeguard British interests through the non-resident accreditation of a British Ambassador based in a neighbouring country, or the appointment of an Honorary Consul.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office continuously reviews the deployment of its resources and aligns them flexibly in line with UK interests to the benefit of the British taxpayer.

### Equatorial Guinea: Human Rights

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further steps his Department plans to take to seek to ensure that the Government of Equatorial Guinea improves its human rights record, with particular reference to prison conditions. [303705]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We remain concerned about the human rights situation in Equatorial Guinea, including reports by the UN Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, Manfred Nowak, of poor conditions in Equato-Guinean Prisons.

The UK will raise its human rights concerns during Equatorial Guinea's forthcoming Universal Periodic Review in the Human Rights Council this month. The Government welcomed the visit to Equatorial Guinea by the UN Special Rapporteur and the co-operation given by the authorities for the visit. The UK engages in the interactive dialogue for every country going through the review—one of the most important innovations of the Human Rights Council, as it has the potential to result in real improvements in the human rights situation on the ground—and we will do the same for Equatorial Guinea. Our ambassador to Equatorial Guinea, located in Abuja, will also continue to raise concerns with the Equato-Guinean authorities on his visits to the country.

### Iraq

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on oil concessions in Iraq. [303570]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government have regular discussions on Iraqi energy issues with the Government of Iraq and with international oil companies. These exchanges include discussion of Iraq's recent and upcoming oil licensing rounds through which the Iraqi Government are acquiring international expertise in order to increase oil production and exports.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of *(a)* death sentences imposed by the incumbent Iraqi regime and *(b)* people sentenced to death who were associated with the previous regime. [304023]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The administration of justice and the punishment of criminal activities in Iraq, including the imposition of the death penalty, is a matter for the elected Government of Iraq. Death sentences have been given to those found guilty of murder or terrorist crimes whether or not they are associated with Saddam Hussein's regime.

The Iraqi Human Rights Minister told UK officials recently that about 900 prisoners had been given the death sentence but it was not clear from when these sentences were imposed. The EU has reported that 117 prisoners have been executed this year.

The position of the UK and of our EU colleagues towards the use of the death penalty is well known to the Government of Iraq, and we continue to raise our opposition to it regularly.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of bribery allegations relating to the private security company Blackwater in respect of the deaths of civilians in Iraq. [304056]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not received any allegations of bribery relating to Blackwater in respect of the deaths of civilians in Iraq.

### Iraq Committee of Inquiry

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what position each official in his Department seconded to the Iraq Committee of Inquiry held between January 2001 and December 2003; and for what matters each was responsible in each such year. [303147]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right. hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office, the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Tessa Jowell), on 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 974-75W.

### Jerusalem: Religious Freedom

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the safety of Christians living in the City of Jerusalem. [303760]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have made no recent assessment of the safety of Jerusalemites along specific religious lines. We call on all parties in Jerusalem to avoid actions that inflame tensions and to respect the religious sensitivities that exist in Jerusalem.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of *(a)* rockets and *(b)* mortar bombs launched into Israeli territory from (i) Lebanon and (ii) Gaza since 1 January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [303915]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Estimates on the exact numbers of rockets and mortar bombs differ; we condemn the firing of any rockets and mortar bombs into Israeli territory. It is unacceptable that militants in the Gaza Strip have continued to fire rockets into southern Israel. In 2009 we have also been concerned by and condemn the sporadic incidents of rocket fire into northern Israel by militants in Lebanon.

### Middle East: Religious Freedom

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* each Minister and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with (i) Arab states and (ii) the government of Israel on discrimination against Jewish communities in Arab states; what the outcomes were of such discussions; and if he will make a statement. [303918]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** In the past 12 months the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has been active in taking forward initiatives designed to counter discrimination against Jewish communities across the world, including in Arab states. In February the FCO co-hosted the inaugural conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism, attended by parliamentarians from around the world. Subsequently we have been committed to advancing the objectives set out in the London Declaration on Combating Anti-Semitism which aspires to combat any manifestations of anti-Semitism and of discrimination against Jewish people.

### Middle East: Trade

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the level of trade between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [303919]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have received no reports on the level of trade between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in 2008.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the level of agricultural exports from the Palestinian Authority to Israel in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and if he will make a statement. [303920]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received no specific reports on the level of Palestinian agricultural exports to Israel in 2007 and 2008.

### Overseas Price Mechanism

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent assessment has been made of the effect on his Department's budget of adverse currency movements following the withdrawal of the Overseas Price Mechanism in Autumn 2007; [301984]

(2) what proportion of his Department's budget was spent on foreign currency transactions in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [301986]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of managing the system of forward purchases of currencies in the latest year for which figures are available; and how many staff have responsibilities connected to this function; [301987]

(4) how much was *(a)* claimed from and *(b)* returned to the Treasury under the Overseas Price Mechanism in each year since the mechanism's adoption; [301989]

(5) with reference to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 219W, on departmental public expenditure, how many UK overseas posts have required additional funding to maintain the purchasing power of their local budget since Autumn 2007; and how much additional funding was provided for that purpose; [301999]

(6) which UK posts overseas have reported a further decline in the purchasing power of their local budget since that answer was given; and what the value in UK sterling was of the total reported decline. [302000]

**David Miliband:** Over half the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) spend is in foreign currencies. Exchange rate pressures impact FCO in three main areas: overseas Posts' spending in foreign currencies; contributions to international organisations and peacekeeping; and spending in sterling on items affected by exchange rates. Until 2007, FCO and the Treasury used the Overseas Price Movements (OPM) mechanism to maintain the local purchasing power of our Posts (the first category) despite any movements in exchange rates and differential inflation rates. Recent OPM transfers between FCO and HM Treasury are:

| *Financial year* | *Impact on Posts (million)* | *Notes* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | -14.1 | Returned to HMT |
| 2005-06 | -4.9 | Returned to HMT |
| 2006-07 | -9.6 | Returned to HMT |
| 2007-08 | +1.4 | HMT Funded FCO Pressure |
| 2008-09 | +59.2 | OPM withdrawn |
| 2009-10 | +80.0 | |

The withdrawal of OPM became effective from April 2008. Since then, 190 of our Posts have faced exchange rate and inflationary pressures. In 2008-09 the exchange and inflation rate pressure on our Posts' budgets was £59.2 million. In 2009-10 the exchange and inflation rate pressures on our Posts' budgets is expected to be £80 million. I have placed details in the Library of the House. Additional exchange rate pressures have impacted our international organisations subscriptions, peacekeeping assessed contributions and some other budgets spent in sterling but impacted by exchange rate movements.

The FCO monitors the impact of foreign currency movements on budgets on a continuing basis. The FCO Board of Management has met frequently and offered me advice on how best to meet the estimated impact (including OPM) of over £100 million in 2009-10.

FCO's discretionary budget from which Posts are funded is £830million (which includes FCO's contributions to UKTI, but excludes all our contributions to UN Peacekeeping and the costs of International Organisations subscriptions). Our Posts have responded impressively with a range of efficiency savings. Programme spend has also been reduced to meet the new budgets.

The foreign currency forward purchase programme to help manage our foreign exchange needs is carried out through our Strategic Treasury Team of three people, drawing on wider skills as and when necessary. A number of more senior staff, including the FCO's Finance Committee, have overseen the operation. HiFX Intelligent Financial Services also provide specialist support at the cost of £41,400 per year.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department conducted a formal assessment of the effect of the proposed withdrawal of the Overseas Price Mechanism during negotiations for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review; and if he will make a statement. [301985]

**David Miliband:** I refer the right hon. Member to the replies I gave on 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1194-95W.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions between 28 June 2007 and 9 October 2007 he held meetings to discuss the Overseas Price Mechanism and proposals for its withdrawal. [301988]

**David Miliband:** I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1194W.

### Palestinians: Christianity

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the rights of Christians in the Palestinian territories with regard to *(a)* travel, *(b)* housing, *(c)* residency and *(d)* equal taxation. [303772]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The last report by our British Consulate-General in Jerusalem on Palestinian Christians was dispatched on 11 May 2009. It covered the social conditions of Palestinian Christians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs), reasons for Christian emigration from the OPTs (mainly the occupation and opportunities afforded to them elsewhere), and relations with the majority Muslim Palestinian community. Other than the usual issues of travel around the West Bank and between the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which affect all Palestinians, the report did not focus on travel, housing, or residency. Nor did it touch on the issue of equal taxation. We have not made a separate assessment of these points.

### Philippines: Politics and Government

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Filipino counterpart on the situation in Mindanao following the recent outrages there; and what support the Government are providing to enable next year's election in the to take place peacefully. [303569]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We continue to support efforts to strengthen democratic processes in the Philippines. We are working with the both the Commission for Elections and the Commission for Human Rights in the Philippines to ensure that marginalised voters such as the elderly are able to take up their democratic rights. We also provide support to local efforts to prevent election related violence. For example, we are supporting the National Ulama Conference of the Philippines, a national body of Islamic scholars who have spoken out against the incident and called on those affected not to carry out reprisals.

More broadly the Government are actively involved in promoting peace and stability in Mindanao. We have accepted an invitation to join an International Contact Group in order to assist the peace process between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front aimed at bringing an end to the long running conflict in Mindanao between the Front, an Islamic separatist group, and the Government of the Philippines.

### Scientists

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions he has met *(a)* the Government Chief Scientific Adviser and *(b)* his Department's Chief Scientific Adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303968]

**Chris Bryant:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers meet regularly with officials during the normal course of business.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 12 of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC) Business Plan, 2009-10, by what means the CMEC plans to collect robust and assured data on private arrangements; and if she will make a statement. [300983]

**Helen Goodman:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance and system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 12 of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC) Business Plan 2009 if she will set out how CMEC plans to collect robust and assured data on private arrangements; and if she will make a statement. [300983]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is in the process of commissioning work to build an annual survey which will provide an estimate of the number of separated families and the proportion with effective arrangements in place whether statutory or private . The survey findings are expected in 2010.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Children: Maintenance

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people contacting the Child Maintenance Options service who have established private maintenance arrangements; and if she will make a statement. [300982]

**Helen Goodman:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the number of people contacting the Child Maintenance Options service who have established private maintenance arrangements; and if she will make a statement. [300982]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has recently conducted an in-house survey of Child Maintenance Options customers to gain an initial indication of outcomes. The survey was carried out in September 2009 and involved people who had contacted the service between August 2008 and August 2009.

From this survey, we estimate that approximately 38,000 effective private arrangements have been put in place following contact with the Options service and approximately 60,000 children are benefiting from these arrangements.

It should be noted that the survey is in-house, not independently assured and does not provide robust findings but provides an early indication of outcomes. The Commission has recently commissioned an independent survey to more effectively establish the impact the service has had and it expects the findings in 2010.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residential properties her Department owns; and how many *(a)* are occupied and *(b)* have been empty for more than six months. [304003]

**Jim Knight:** DWP does not own any residential properties.

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of staff of her Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what her Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301334]

**Jim Knight:** The information held at the end of September 2009 on part-time flexible working contracts for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and its agencies is in the following table.

*Working pattern*

| | Part-time | |
|---|---|---|
| *Agency* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| Jobcentre Plus | 28,049 | 31 |
| Pensions Disability and Carers Service | 6,079 | 37 |
| Corporate Shared Services | 3,153 | 24 |
| Total | 37,281 | 31 |

The information held on part-time flexible working contracts for non-departmental public bodies is in the following table.

*Working pattern*

| | Part-time | |
|---|---|---|
| *Non-departmental public body* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC) | 2,813 | 36 |
| Health and Safety Executive (HSE) | 927 | 24 |
| Independent Living Fund (ILF) | 67 | 36 |
| Pension Protection Fund (PPF) | 14 | 7.3 |
| Pensions Ombudsman (PO) and Pensions Protection Fund Ombudsman (PPFO) | 4 | 11 |
| Personal Accounts Delivery Authority (PADA) | 1 | 0.7 |
| Remploy Ltd. | 500 | 10 |
| The Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) | 6 | 15 |
| The Pensions Regulator (TPR) | 40 | 13.5 |

DWP recognises the advantage of having a range of different flexible working arrangements to meet business needs. Current selection policy encourages applications from employees looking to job share and work flexibly.

The Department's HR work force planning team produces a monthly pocket facts report, this includes staffing—headcount analysis. The report is available on the departmental intranet with the last publication being for September 2009, this showed 82,344 employees as full time and 37,281 part-time. This equates to 69 per cent. and 31 per cent. respectively. The difference between the 82,344 from pocket facts and the 82,335 in our data (nine) is based on the working pattern not being recorded on RM.

Departmental guidance on working hours and working patterns was amended to include advice for employees on how employees can find potential job-share partners by linking to the civil service jobs on line internet site.

Data on non-departmental public bodies have been provided by the departmental governance team.

### Departmental Disclosure of Information

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to her Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301490]

**Jim Knight:** Information on the numbers of staff in the Department for Work and Pensions who made allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing since 6 June 2006 is not available in the format requested.

The Department for Work and Pensions records the numbers of staff raising grievances and complaints of harassment, discrimination and bullying but does not record information under the specific category requested. To extract more detailed information from individual records under the category requested would be at disproportionate cost.

Civil Servants are required to act in accordance with the standards and core values set out in the Civil Service Code. The Civil Service Code also provides for civil servants to raise matters of concern with the independent Civil Service Commissioners if they do not receive what they consider to be a reasonable response following departmental internal procedures. The Commissioners will also consider taking a complaint direct. Further guidance on whistleblowing is set out in the Civil Service Management Code and the Directory of Civil Service Guidance.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much money her Department *(a)* lost in each year since 2005 and *(b)* expects to lose in each of the next three years through administrative error. [303401]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is in the following table.

*Estimated overpayments due to official error since 2005-06*

| | *Overpayments due to Official Error (administrative error) (£ billion)* | *Overpayments due to Official Error (administrative error) as a percentage of overall benefit expenditure* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 0.9 | 0.7 |
| 2006-07 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| 2007-08 | 0.9 | 0.7 |
| 2008-09 | 0.8 | 0.6 |

*Source:*
National Statistics publication 'Fraud and Error in the Benefit System: April 2008 to March 2009'

The Department does not produce projections for future losses as a result of administrative error. However, the Department has a strategic objective to reduce overpayments as a result of fraud, official error and customer error combined to 1.8 of overall benefit expenditure per cent by March 2011.

### Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many security passes her Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303959]

**Jim Knight:** Information regarding the number of security passes the Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals aged under 25 years commenced a claim for *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* work-related employment and support allowance and *(c)* support group employment and support allowance in each of the last 12 quarters. [301787]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information is not presently available separately for work-related and support group employment and support allowance.

The available information is in the tables.

*Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimant numbers for individuals aged under 25 years for each of the last 12 quarters*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| August 2006 | 27,960 |
| November 2006 | 28,480 |
| February 2007 | 24,700 |
| May 2007 | 25,880 |
| August 2007 | 29,350 |
| November 2007 | 28,430 |
| February 2008 | 24,430 |
| May 2008 | 25,180 |
| August 2008 | 29,500 |
| November 2008 | 20,630 |
| February 2009 | 2,870 |
| May 2009 | 2,250 |

*Notes:*
1. The figures represent the total number of spells on this benefit that commence within the quarter. A person may flow on and off the same benefit more than once during a quarter.
2. The figures do not include numbers where people move out of one area and into another while remaining on the benefit. The figures also miss around 8 per cent. of short duration flows onto the benefit every quarter, where the claimant has flowed on and off the benefit between the six weeks scan.
3. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008, any incapacity benefit on flows after that date will be claimants electing to reclaim incapacity benefit within the 52 week linking rules.

*Source:*
The Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

*Employment and support allowance claimant numbers for individuals aged under 25 years for each of the last three quarters*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| November 2008 | 10,150 |
| February 2009 | 24,960 |
| May 2009[1] | 28,310 |

[1] Provisional data

*Notes:*
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Employment and Support Allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
3. The figures relating to employment and support allowance have been thoroughly quality assured to National Statistics standard however it should be noted that this is a new benefit using a new data source which may not have reached steady state in terms of operational processing and retrospection. Hence most recent data shown are provisional.

*Source:*
The Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes she plans to make to the work capability assessment; what steps she is taking to ensure such changes take into account the needs of those with *(a)* autism and *(b)* fluctuating conditions; and what estimate she has made of the change in the number of people receiving employment support allowance as a result of such changes. [303636]

**Jonathan Shaw:** As announced in the White Paper 'Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future', published in December 2008, we are currently conducting a Department-led review of the work capability assessment in consultation with medical experts and representative groups including the National Autistic Society. How the assessment considers individuals with fluctuating conditions forms part of the review and estimation of the effects of any changes will be made once the review is complete.

### Employment and Support Allowance: Medical Examinations

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken by Atos Healthcare is to deliver to a claimant's GP a report following a work capability assessment; and if she will make a statement. [305268]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Atos Healthcare medical examination reports are not sent to claimant's GP's. The medical assessment reports completed by Atos Healthcare are sent directly to the business user of the medical services contract.

### Employment and Support Allowance: Sight Impaired

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new claims for employment and support allowance which were granted were made on the grounds of problems with vision, including visual acuity and visual fields, between October 2008 and February 2009; and how many people assessed for employment and support allowance on the basis of problems with vision, including visual acuity and visual fields, have been judged *(a)* suitable for the Support Group, *(b)* suitable for the Work Related Activity Group and *(c)* as fit for work. [304540]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

### Home Responsibilities Protection

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for home responsibilities protection have been refused on the grounds that the applicant was unmarried and caring for children while a partner worked in the last 12 months. [303939]

**Angela Eagle:** None. Whether a couple are married is not one of the criteria used to determine whether home responsibilities protection can be awarded to the partner of a child benefit recipient where the recipient herself has gained a qualifying year through paid work.

### Incapacity Benefit: Older Workers

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans her Department has for introducing pilots to help incapacity benefit claimants over the age of 50 years to move off benefit and into work; how many such pilot schemes are planned and in which areas in the country; for how long such pilot schemes will last; and when she expects them to commence. [304541]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]:* On 13 October 2009, the Secretary of State announced a review of the employment support provided to disabled people and those with health conditions. As part of that review we are considering the help we should make available to incapacity benefits claimants over age 50. The underpinning principles of our future reforms of the Pathways to Work programme will be included in the shortly to be published "Back to Work" White Paper. We will publish full proposals in the spring.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: South East Region

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average duration of a jobseeker's allowance claim was in each local authority area in the South East in each of the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years. [301277]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information has been placed in the Library.

### KBR

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [303287]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has not entered into any contracts with Kellogg Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009.

### Pensioners: Income

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the total income of pensioners came from the *(a)* public purse and *(b)* private pension provision in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate has been made of the equivalent figures for (i) 2030, (ii) 2040 and (iii) 2050. [304386]

**Angela Eagle:** In 2007-08, the percentage of total income of pensioners which comes from the public purse is 42 per cent. on average. The percentage of total income of pensioners which comes from a private pension, on average, is 28 per cent. The remaining 30 per cent. on average, comes from investment income, earnings and other income streams.

No estimates have been made of these breakdowns for 2030, 2040 or 2050.

### Poverty

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate she has made of the number of people with an income below the before housing costs poverty threshold who pay income tax. [300393]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not available.

### Sickness Benefits: EU Law

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will place in the Library a copy of her substantive response to the letter sent to her by the

European Commission on 1 October 2009 giving factual notice in respect of the UK Government's failure to comply with the ECJ ruling on exportable sickness benefits. [303358]

**Angela Eagle:** The European Commission wrote to the UK Government on 8 October giving formal notification of infraction proceedings challenging how the UK has implemented a 2007 decision of the European Court of Justice relating to Disability Living Allowance (care component), Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance.

Correspondence between the European Commission and the member states (including the UK) on such cases is generally regarded by both parties as confidential between them.

As we are currently in dialogue with the European Commission we will not be making our replies to their correspondence public.

## Social Security Benefits

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the Work for Your Benefit scheme pilots. [303807]

**Jim Knight:** The overall budget for the Work for Your Benefit pilots is £20 million, of which £15 million has been allocated to the provider-led Work for Your Benefit contracts.

We will also deliver an alternative regime of support for jobseekers reaching 24 months on jobseeker's allowance, which we will be comparing to the provider-led programme in the pilot areas. This will be delivered by Jobcentre Plus.

## Social Security Benefits: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former claimants of jobseeker's allowance in Peterborough constituency have moved on to *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* a training allowance, *(c)* the self-employment credit and *(d)* a Future Jobs Fund job in each month of the last two years. [302013]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: Data on people who flow off jobseeker's allowance onto pension credit are not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The information requested on people who have flowed off jobseeker's allowance onto training allowance in the Peterborough constituency in each month of the last two years is given in the following table.

*Number of people in the Peterborough parliamentary constituency flowing from Jobseeker's Allowance to Government-supported training schemes-each month of the last two years*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| November 2007 | 80 |
| December 2007 | 60 |
| January 2008 | 30 |
| February 2008 | 60 |
| March 2008 | 55 |
| April 2008 | 60 |
| May 2008 | 65 |
| June 2008 | 75 |
| July 2008 | 70 |
| August 2008 | 70 |
| September 2008 | 60 |
| October 2008 | 50 |
| November 2008 | 70 |
| December 2008 | 60 |
| January 2009 | 45 |
| February 2009 | 85 |
| March 2009 | 40 |
| April 2009 | 75 |
| May 2009 | 100 |
| June 2009 | 65 |
| July 2009 | 90 |
| August 2009 | 60 |
| September 2009 | 15 |
| October 2009 | 10 |

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest five.
2. This information is published on the Nomis website at: www.nomisweb.co.uk
3. The percentage of people leaving with an unknown destination recorded has increased over the last 10 years. This is because the completion levels of the JSA40 (forms filled in by people leaving jobseeker's allowance) have decreased over this period. This should be taken into account when interpreting these statistics, as many of these 'unknown' leavers will have moved into employment or other benefits.

*Source:*
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only)

Information on the number of people who have flowed off jobseeker's allowance to receive the self-employment credit is not available at constituency level. I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the right hon. Member for Maidenhead, (Mrs. May), on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 571-72W, for the data that are available at national level.

The information requested on people who have flowed off jobseeker's allowance into a Future Jobs Fund job is not available.

## Winter Fuel Payments

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many eligible *(a)* men and *(b)* women have not received backdated winter fuel payments in respect of previous years in (i) each local authority in the North West and (ii) England. [304675]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is not available.

# CABINET OFFICE

## Caparo Group

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether *(a)* each Minister and *(b)* officials in her Department have met Angad Paul in each of the last three years. [303111]

**Tessa Jowell:** My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for (i) her Department and (ii) the Prime Minister's Office. [303592]

**Ms Butler:** The Prime Minister's Office is part of the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office currently has 18 full-time equivalent staff employed as press officers.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff worked in 10 Downing Street other than in the Prime Minister's office in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [301303]

**Angela E. Smith:** Other than its own employees the Cabinet Office does not keep records of staff who work in Downing street such as the Metropolitan Police.

### Departmental Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what date she last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of her official duties. [302718]

**Tessa Jowell:** All travel I undertake is in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Ministers

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what criteria determine the order in which Cabinet Ministers are listed in the list of Cabinet Ministers on page two of the List of Ministerial Responsibilities, dated October 2009. [305096]

**Tessa Jowell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 83W.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the cost to the Government Equalities Office was of the provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302962]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The cost to accommodate GEO's private and press office staff in 2008-09 was £90,272. This figure covers the office facility costs for one special adviser, two press office posts and the wider private office. It is not possible to separate out specific costs for special advisers and press office.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Africa: Overseas Aid

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will hold discussions with his *(a)* Egyptian, *(b)* Sudanese and *(c)* Ethiopian counterpart to seek progress on re-negotiating the terms of the Nile Basin Initiative. [illegible]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is not engaging directly in the negotiations for a new agreement on Nile waters. Negotiations are led by the basin countries. DFID along with all partners to the Nile Basin Initiative are following the process closely.

### Developing Countries: Educational Visits

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided for children and young people from each local authority area to visit developing countries in each of the last five years. [304342]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To collect the disaggregated spend on young people visiting developing countries by local authority would incur disproportionate costs.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent in each local authority area on school-based learning about international development in each of the last five years. [304430]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** We are unable to provide data on how much has been spent on school-based learning about international development in each local authority area, as this information is either unavailable or would incur disproportionate costs to collect.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many contracts to provide publicly-funded visits for children and young people to developing countries his Department has funded in the last 12 months; what the monetary value of each contract is; when each such contract expires; what assessment has been made of their effectiveness and value for money; and if he will make a statement; [304432]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the merits of providing public funding for children and young people from the UK to visit developing countries. [304431]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has two contracts which provide publicly funded visits for children and young people to visit developing countries. These are Platform2, DFID's youth volunteering programme for less advantaged young adults, and the Global School Partnership (GSP) programme which links schools in the UK and developing countries. The monetary value and expiry date of each contract is provided in the table.

| Name of contract | Contract expiry date | Value of contract (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Platform2 | 31 December 2010 | 9,935,361 |
| GSP | 31 March 2012 | 21,364,646 |

A recent independent external evaluation of Platform2 concluded that it is successfully changing attitudes towards international development, engaging young people and generating activism around development issues. Furthermore two recent independent evaluations found that GSP has had a substantial impact on schools in the UK and developing countries and that school partnerships result in positive impacts on children's knowledge and understanding of global issues.

### Overseas Aid

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department provided to each overseas country in each of the last three years. [304227]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** A summary of the level of aid provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) to each overseas country in each of the five years to 2008-09 is published in Statistics on International Development a copy of which is available in the Library or on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

## TREASURY

### Banks: Government Assistance

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the agreement between the Bank of England and HBOS and RBS providing collateral in excess of £100 billion for the emergency liquidity assistance given to those banks. [302697]

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what interest rate was set for repayment of the loan made to *(a)* RBS and *(b)* HBOS in October 2008; what guarantees were obtained by the Bank of England as security against each such loan; and whether he discussed those matters with the Governor of the Bank of England prior to the Governor's appearance before the Treasury Committee on 24 November 2009. [302967]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** As disclosed by the Governor of the Bank of England in his letter to the Chairman of the Treasury Committee dated 23 November, collateral with a total value of over £100 billion was taken by the Bank as security to support its loans to HBOS and RBS. The assets taken as collateral comprised Government issued debt, residential mortgages, and personal and commercial loans. These assets were of types eligible to be taken in securitised form in the Bank's market wide facilities.

From 16 October any additional lending under the facilities was conducted under an indemnity by HM Treasury, which covered the residual risk on the loan after significant collateralisation. At its peak this indemnity covered £18 billion of the support provided.

The rate charged to the two banks was a penal rate, broadly equivalent to a cost of funds around 2 per cent. above the equivalent market funding rate.

The Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England have a regular dialogue on a wide range of financial and economic issues as well as matters relating to emergency liquidity assistance.

Information about the Bank's market-wide facilities is available on the Bank's website:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/marketnotice090925ltr.pdf

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/marketnotice090925dwf.pdf

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/marketnotice090925sls.pdf

Details of arrangements between the Bank of England and the two banks are a matter for the Bank of England.

### Beer: Prices

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the average retail price of a pint of beer comprised tax in each of the last three years. [304167]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** HMRC publish data on the percentage of the average price of a pint of beer that constitutes tax in the Alcohol Factsheet. This can be found in Tables 3.5 and 3.7 at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factalcohol

Data for 2009 are not yet available.

### Cheques

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with British banks on allowing their customers to retain the right to continue to use cheques indefinitely; and if he will make a statement. [304139]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to his Department was of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302964]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Information on HM Treasury's administration costs is published in its Annual Report and Accounts each year. The 2008-09 Report (HC611) was published on 20 July 2009 and is available from:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/annual_report09.htm

The Department does not hold the information requested relating to specific staff groups, and could provide it only at disproportionate cost.

## Energy: Conservation

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* private landlords have submitted claims under the Landlord's Energy Saving Allowance in each year since the inception of the scheme. [304740]

**Mr. Timms:** The numbers of non-corporate landlords that have used the Landlord's Energy Saving Allowance (LESA) since 6 April 2004 are shown in the following table. HM Revenue and Customs' administrative systems do not capture information for companies.

| | *Individuals* | *Partnerships* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1,430 | 30 | 1,460 |
| 2005-06 | 1,470 | 20 | 1,490 |
| 2006-07 | 1,740 | 50 | 1,790 |
| 2007-08 | 2,300 | 60 | 2,360 |

## Post Offices: Bank Services

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable he has set for bringing forward proposals to enable the Post Office to provide more banking services. [301965]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have been asked to reply.

A 12 week national public consultation on Post Office banking was launched on 2 December.

## Rent A Room Scheme

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* room availability and *(b)* revenue of an increase in the tax-free threshold of the rent-a-room scheme. [304741]

**Mr. Timms:** No such assessment has been made.

An increase in the threshold to £9,000 has been estimated to reduce Exchequer revenue by £10 million.

## Taxation: Business

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* small and medium-sized and *(b)* other enterprises have made Time to Pay arrangements with HM Revenue and Customs to defer tax through the Business Payment Support Service to date; how much tax liability has been deferred as a result of such arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [304410]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs measures the Business Payment Support Service through the number and value of agreements reached, and not by the size of business. To 29 November 2009 just under 238,000 Time to Pay arrangements have been agreed worth £4.17 billion.

The agreements do not defer payment but agree the payment of tax by instalments over a period of time. Since the service was introduced on 24 November 2008, over 90 per cent. of the value of payments due has been paid by the agreed time.

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax HM Revenue and Customs forecasts will be written off as bad debts as a result of *(a)* small and medium-sized and *(b)* other enterprises which have made Time to Pay arrangements with HM Revenue and Customs to defer tax through the Business Payment Support Service not being able to meet their tax liabilities in (i) January 2010, (ii) February 2010, (iii) March 2010, (iv) April 2010, (v) May 2010, (vi) June 2010, (vii) July 2010, (viii) August 2010 and (ix) September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [304411]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) includes an overall provision for doubtful debt each year in its annual accounts but does not routinely disaggregate this figure. The most recent provisions are included in the accounts to 31 March 2009, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0809.pdf

However, over 90 per cent. of the value of tax that has become due under Time to Pay arrangements agreed through the Business Payment Support Service, launched in November 2008 is being paid in line with agreed instalments.

Arrangements are available to businesses that are in genuine financial difficulty and unable to pay tax on time, but that are likely to be able to pay the tax due if given more time.

HMRC looks at each Time to Pay proposal on its individual merits against general risk-based criteria, which it has since the service's introduction to reach decisions on a case-by-case basis.

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* small and medium-sized and *(b)* other enterprises which have made Time to Pay arrangements with HM Revenue and Customs to defer tax through the Business Payment Support Service are scheduled to pay their tax liability in (i) January 2010, (ii) February 2010, (iii) March 2010, (iv) April 2010, (v) May 2010, (vi) June 2010, (vii) July 2010, (viii) August 2010 and (ix) September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [304413]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Working Tax Credit: Expenditure

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on the childcare element of working tax credit in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [305300]

**Mr. Timms:** No such forecast has been produced.

# JUSTICE

## Access to Justice Act 1999

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what amendments have been made to the Access to Justice Act 1999; and if he will make a statement; [303893]

(2) what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he (i) has issued since 1999 and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequent on the provisions of the Access to Justice Act 1999; and if he will make a statement; [303894]

(3) what recent representations he has received on the operation of the Access to Justice Act 1999; what assessment he has made of the effects of the provisions of that Act on people accused of a criminal offence; and if he will make a statement. [303905]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Access to Justice Act 1999 covers a very wide range of areas, including civil and criminal legal aid, conditional fee and litigation funding agreements, legal services regulation, judges, and the courts, and therefore this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Administration of Justice: Females

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what gender-sensitive policies and procedures his Department has introduced for women in the criminal justice system in the last five years. [304443]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is as follows:

We have:

*(a)* agreed funding for a total 31 Women's Community Projects to provide additional services in the community to women at risk of offending and previous offenders;

*(b)* introduced gender specific standards which ensure an appropriate response to women prisoners, including on searching, implemented in all women's prisons this year;

*(c)* published in May 2008 an Offender Management Guide for working with women and National Service Framework to improve services to women offenders.

In addition a Consultation Paper by the Sentencing Advisory Panel addressing important principles of sentencing of women offenders was issued in December 2008.

### C-NOMIS Database Project Board

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the accuracy of the information provided to Ministers in his Department by the C-NOMIS database project board in respect of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* timeliness of the project as it progressed. [300784]

**Maria Eagle:** There have been no recent assessments. The National Audit Office conducted a review of the NOMIS programme which reported in March 2009 informing the Public Accounts Committee's November 2009 report. We are responding to the PAC report and anticipate publication of the response in January 2010.

### Constitutions

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials, *(c)* representatives of local authorities and *(d)* (i) invited and (ii) non-invited members of the public attended the deliberative event of 28 November on rights and responsibilities and a written constitution. [303991]

**Mr. Wills:** The deliberative event on 28 November 2009, which is one of a series designed to support qualitative research, was attended by the following persons:

*(a)* One Minister—The right hon. Michael Wills MP, Minister of State, Ministry of Justice.

*(b)* Five officials from the Ministry of Justice.

*(c)* No representatives from local authorities.

*(d)* (i) 110 invited members of the general public.

*(d)* (ii) The deliberative events were open only to those who were invited to constitute a broadly representative sample of the population as a whole. It follows that no non-invited members of the general public attended the event on 28 November.

### Crimes of Violence: Merseyside

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of conviction rates for those accused of crimes of violence with homophobic motives in Merseyside. [304226]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I have been asked to reply.

There has not been a recent assessment of conviction rates for those accused of crimes of violence with homophobic motives in Merseyside.

In September 2009 we launched the Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan which contains a number of action points designed to reduce numbers of crimes of violence across all five hate crime strands, including sexual orientation. In particular, it commits the Home Office to produce guidance for Crime and Disorder Partnerships on preventing and responding to hate incidents and hate crimes.

There is also a range of activity taking place in the North West to combat hate crime targeted at lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) individuals. For example, bar owners and door staff in and around the areas of Liverpool frequented by LGB communities have recently received hate crime awareness-raising training.

Further, Liverpool's Hate Crime Reduction Forum which brings stakeholders together from across Liverpool to address all strands of hate crime, funded the As One programme which was an educational awareness programme focused on youth centres in the Kensington area encompassing antisocial behaviour and diversity awareness.

### Debts: Advisory Services

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to respond to his Department's consultation on debt management schemes. [305188]

**Bridget Prentice:** The consultation paper Debt Management schemes—delivering effective and balanced solutions for debtors and creditors was published on 18 September. The consultation does not close until 18 December.

Responses received will be subjected to both a numerical and a qualitative analysis and Ministers will consider the evidence early 2010. A Response Paper setting out the Government's position in the light of this evidence will be published after that.

## Departmental Legislation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [303254]

**Claire Ward:** The criminal offences abolished and created by primary legislation sponsored by my Department are provided in the following list. The information has been obtained by a manual trawl of the legislation.

Only newly created offences have been included, not any existing offences which have been amended by the legislation.

*Offences Created by Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008*

s41 Unauthorised disclosure of information relating to fine enforcement.

s57 Unauthorised disclosure of information relating to the assessment of financial eligibility.

s63 Possessing an extreme pornographic image.

s72 United Kingdom national doing an act in a country outside the United Kingdom, which if done in England and Wales or Northern Ireland would constitute a sexual offence.

s74 and schedule 16 Inciting hatred on the ground of sexual orientation.

*Offences repealed or abolished by Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008*

s79 Common law offences of blasphemy and blasphemous libel.

*Offences created by Coroners and Justice Act 2009*

s30 Failure to notify coroner of acquisition of certain objects.

s62 Possession of a prohibited image of a child.

s71 Holding a person in slavery or servitude or requiring a person to perform forced or compulsory labour.

s76 Disclosing information in contravention of an investigation anonymity order.

Sch 6 Pt 1. para 1 Serving on a jury at an inquest if disqualified from jury service.[1]

Sch 6 Pt 1. para 2 Refusing without reasonable excuse to answer any question put by a senior coroner, (b) giving an answer to such a question knowing the answer to be false in a material particular, or (c) recklessly giving an answer to such a question that is false in a material particular.[1]

Sch 6 Pt1. para 3 A person who is duly summoned as a juror at an inquest (a) making any false representation, or (b) causing or permitting to be made any false representation on his or her behalf, with the intention of evading service as a juror at an inquest.[1]

Sch 6 Pt1. para 4 Making or causing to be made, on behalf of a person who has been duly summoned as a juror at an inquest, any false representation with the intention of enabling the other person to evade service as a juror at an inquest.[1]

Sch 6 Pt 2. para 7(1) (a) Doing anything that is intended to have the effect of (a) distorting or otherwise altering any evidence, document or other thing that is given, produced or provided for the purposes of an investigation under this part of this Act, or (c) doing anything that the person knows or believes is likely to have that effect.[1]

Sch 6. para 7(1) (b) preventing any evidence, document or other thing from being given, produced or provided for the purposes of such an investigation.

Sch. 6. para 7(2)(a) Intentionally suppressing or concealing a document.

Sch 6 para 7(2) (b) Intentionally alter or destroy such a document.

Sch 6 para 8(1) In giving unsworn evidence at an inquest, giving false evidence in such circumstances that, had the evidence been given on oath, he or she would have been guilty of perjury.

[1] Denotes offences replacing repealed offences.

*Offences abolished or repealed by the Coroners and Justice Act 2009*

s9(3) Coroners Act 1988 A person serving on a jury knowing that he is disqualified from such service.

s9(5)a Coroners Act 1988 Refusing without reasonable excuse to answer a question put by a senior coroner. b) Giving an answer which he knows to be false in a material particular; or c) Recklessly giving an answer which is false in a material particular.

s9(6)a Coroners act 1988 A person duly summoned as a juror making any false representation to the coroner or the appropriate officer with the intention of evading service as such juror.

s9(6)a Coroners Act 1988 A person summoned as a juror at an inquest causing or permitting to be made any representation on his or her behalf with the intention of evading service as a juror.

s9(6)b Coroners Act 1988 Making or causing to be made on behalf of another person who has been so summoned any false representation to the coroner or the appropriate officer with the intention of enabling that other person to evade such service.

s74 Common law offences of sedition, seditious libel, defamatory and obscene libel.

*Offences created by Parliamentary Standards Act 2009*

s10 A member of the House of Commons making a claim under the MPs' allowances scheme, and (b) providing information for the purposes of the claim that the member knows to be false or misleading in a material respect.

*Offences repealed by the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009*

None

*Offences Created by the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009*

s2(2) and Sch. 1 Failing without reasonable excuse, to comply with any requirement imposed under or by virtue of this schedule.

s2(2) and Sch. 1 Intentionally obstructing a person authorised by or by virtue of this schedule in the carrying out of that person's functions.

s2(2) and Sch 1 Knowingly or recklessly providing false information in purported compliance with a requirement imposed under or by virtue of this schedule.

s9(2) (5) Knowingly or recklessly making a false declaration about source of donation.

s10(4) (3)and schedule 4 Knowingly or recklessly making a false declaration about whether residence etc condition satisfied.

s11(1) (5) Knowingly or recklessly making a false declaration about whether residence etc. condition is satisfied.

s11(4) (5) Knowingly or recklessly makes a false declaration about whether residence etc condition is satisfied.

s17(4) Knowingly giving false information about the amount of any controlled donation, or the person making the donation.

s19 and schedule 5 An unincorporated association failing to give a notification or report to the Commission.

s19 and schedule 5 An unincorporated association giving a notification to the Commission or making a report to the Commission which fails to comply with the relevant requirement.

s31(4) Disclosing information for unauthorised purpose.

s35(8) Disclosing information for unauthorised purpose.

Sch 2 para 14 Failing to comply with stop notice.

*Offences Repealed by the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009*

None.

## Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303942]

**Mr. Straw:** We do not hold central records of the number of security passes which are issued locally across the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) estate. While some parts of MoJ produce separate passes for contractors we do not identify which of those are issued for consultancy purposes. Identifying the numbers would involve disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Taxis

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessor travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302703]

**Mr. Straw:** The requested information is not held in the administrative or finance systems of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) or its predecessor bodies. To answer this question, the MoJ would need to collect the information manually and the costs of collection would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold. So far as I can recall I have used a taxi on three occasions since 1997 on official duties.

The Civil Service Management Code sets outs regulations and instructions to departments and agencies regarding the terms and conditions of service of civil servants and the delegations which have been made by the Minister for the civil service under the Civil Service (Management of Functions) Act 1992 together with the conditions attached to those delegations.

The Code can be accessed at the following website:

http://beta.civilservice.gov.uk/about/work/codes/csmc/index.aspx

Paragraph 8.2 deals with travel and under this section departments and agencies must ensure that staff use the most efficient and economic means of travel in the circumstances, taking into account any management benefit or the needs of staff with disabilities.

## Driving Offences

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of drivers who were convicted of causing death by dangerous driving in each of the last 10 years had previously been banned from driving. [302351]

**Claire Ward:** The data held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the court proceedings database for England and Wales do not contain information about the circumstances behind each case, including whether an offender found guilty at court had previously been banned from driving.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of people who were convicted of dangerous driving in each of the last 10 years were not insured to drive the vehicle in which the offence was committed. [302352]

**Claire Ward:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only by analysing approximately 50,000 cases which would require manual collation at a disproportionate cost.

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for *(a)* offences of drink driving and *(b)* each other motoring offence resulted in a custodial sentence in (i) Mid Bedfordshire constituency, (ii) the East of England and (iii) England in each of the last 10 years. [302926]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in the Bedfordshire police force area, the East of England Government office region and England for driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs and other motoring offences (by offence type) is given in tables 1, 2 and 3 from 1998 to 2007 (latest available). Sentences of immediate custody imposed at all courts are given in tables 4, 5 and 6.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

*Table 1: Defendants found guilty at all courts in the Bedfordshire police force area, for motoring offences,[1] by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[2, 3]*

*Number*

| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Dangerous driving | 29 | 27 | 28 | 36 | 38 | 54 | 36 | 43 | 44 | 40 |
| 3 | Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 964 | 777 | 713 | 845 | 880 | 977 | 986 | 969 | 1,060 | 963 |
| 4 | Careless driving | 280 | 154 | 183 | 206 | 167 | 160 | 134 | 168 | 235 | 354 |
| 5 | Accident offences | 90 | 66 | 72 | 66 | 64 | 64 | 58 | 47 | 71 | 73 |
| 7 | Driving licence related offences | 802 | 470 | 767 | 471 | 480 | 618 | 690 | 611 | 558 | 504 |
| 9 | Vehicle insurance offences | 2,310 | 1,625 | 1,473 | 1,998 | 2,172 | 2,364 | 2,290 | 2,429 | 2,217 | 1,984 |
| 10 | Vehicle registration and excise licence offences | 77 | 36 | 29 | 25 | 37 | 42 | 17 | 101 | 140 | 40 |

*Table 1: Defendants found guilty at all courts in the Bedfordshire police force area, for motoring offences,[1] by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[2, 3]*

*Number*

| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | Work record and employment offences | 51 | 3 | 18 | 21 | 23 | 32 | 11 | 14 | 8 | 1 |
| 12 | Operator's licence offences | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | — | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 13 | Vehicle test offences | 349 | 211 | 171 | 192 | 88 | 84 | 77 | 71 | 69 | 49 |
| 14 | Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records | 40 | 41 | 18 | 17 | 27 | 27 | 15 | 24 | 19 | 8 |
| 15 | Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition | 95 | 51 | 301 | 56 | 42 | 29 | 36 | 20 | 31 | 38 |
| 16 | Speed limit offences | 3,369 | 2,278 | 1,978 | 2,260 | 1,468 | 3,481 | 3,379 | 4,503 | 4,234 | 4,175 |
| 17 | Motorway offences (other than speeding) | 9 | 5 | 7 | 16 | 7 | 14 | 14 | 18 | 13 | 15 |
| 18 | Neglect of traffic directions | 206 | 70 | 63 | 78 | 61 | 67 | 218 | 678 | 420 | 426 |
| 19 | Neglect of pedestrian rights | 41 | 21 | 11 | 11 | 20 | 11 | 17 | 22 | 17 | 19 |
| 20 | Obstruction, waiting and parking offences | 122 | 44 | 19 | 14 | 13 | 72 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 7 |
| 21 | Lighting offences | 47 | 23 | 18 | 18 | 24 | 23 | 11 | 12 | 28 | 19 |
| 22 | Noise offences | 4 | 6 | 7 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 2 |
| 23 | Load offences | 72 | 49 | 87 | 44 | 38 | 69 | 36 | 21 | 18 | 26 |
| 24 | Offences peculiar to motor cycles | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | — | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 25 | Miscellaneous motoring offences | 95 | 201 | 127 | 163 | 73 | 70 | 124 | 252 | 194 | 596 |
|  | Total | 8,684 | 6,122 | 5,711 | 6,501 | 5,753 | 8,265 | 8,164 | 10,017 | 9,390 | 9,342 |

[1] Offence groups are shown only where data have been reported within the period given.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

*Table 2: Defendants found guilty at all courts in the East of England Government office region,[1] for motoring offences,[2] by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[3, 4]*

*Number*

| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Dangerous driving | 358 | 335 | 284 | 291 | 379 | 436 | 398 | 375 | 368 | 378 |
| 3 | Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 7,646 | 7,343 | 6,729 | 7,201 | 7,800 | 8,178 | 8,605 | 8,234 | 8,679 | 8,251 |
| 4 | Careless driving | 4,817 | 4,215 | 4,143 | 3,954 | 3,264 | 2,862 | 2,515 | 3,027 | 2,937 | 4,123 |
| 5 | Accident offences | 727 | 663 | 706 | 706 | 744 | 800 | 709 | 674 | 746 | 783 |
| 7 | Driving licence related offences | 2,963 | 3,107 | 3,147 | 3,256 | 3,556 | 4,230 | 4,404 | 4,150 | 4,013 | 3,863 |
| 9 | Vehicle insurance offences | 13,324 | 12,497 | 12,335 | 12,540 | 13,775 | 15,994 | 16,228 | 16,489 | 17,268 | 15,107 |
| 10 | Vehicle registration and excise licence offences | 646 | 306 | 686 | 1,166 | 1,443 | 1,919 | 1,547 | 2,370 | 2,031 | 1,904 |
| 11 | Work record and employment offences | 439 | 415 | 311 | 276 | 331 | 269 | 206 | 208 | 205 | 136 |
| 12 | Operator's licence offences | 212 | 179 | 181 | 120 | 92 | 81 | 9 | 91 | 101 | 42 |
| 13 | Vehicle test offences | 3,150 | 2,568 | 2,279 | 1,934 | 1,751 | 1,602 | 1,404 | 1,173 | 1,147 | 861 |
| 14 | Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records | 643 | 558 | 518 | 532 | 472 | 473 | 284 | 186 | 180 | 133 |
| 15 | Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition | 1,597 | 1,206 | 1,201 | 838 | 741 | 639 | 736 | 657 | 765 | 746 |
| 16 | Speed limit offences | 17,818 | 17,107 | 14,577 | 16,712 | 21,177 | 18,843 | 19,414 | 25,185 | 24,186 | 23,634 |
| 17 | Motorway offences (other than speeding) | 134 | 65 | 87 | 109 | 113 | 159 | 150 | 215 | 153 | 161 |
| 18 | Neglect of traffic directions | 3,341 | 2,510 | 2,769 | 2,605 | 1,987 | 2,134 | 2,002 | 2,376 | 2,490 | 2,353 |

*Table 2: Defendants found guilty at all courts in the East of England Government office region,[1] for motoring offences,[2] by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[3] [4]*

*Number*

| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | Neglect of pedestrian rights | 383 | 315 | 286 | 207 | 189 | 152 | 148 | 135 | 119 | 161 |
| 20 | Obstruction, waiting and parking offences | 1,394 | 1,367 | 1,185 | 921 | 1,024 | 859 | 625 | 562 | 500 | 517 |
| 21 | Lighting offences | 423 | 321 | 277 | 191 | 204 | 180 | 217 | 172 | 209 | 186 |
| 22 | Noise offences | 192 | 147 | 106 | 77 | 78 | 66 | 54 | 42 | 48 | 37 |
| 23 | Load offences | 1,337 | 1,137 | 833 | 650 | 640 | 924 | 817 | 813 | 833 | 550 |
| 24 | Offences peculiar to motor cycles | 34 | 29 | 41 | 40 | 29 | 21 | 33 | 34 | 23 | 15 |
| 25 | Miscellaneous motoring offences | 2,242 | 3,307 | 2,075 | 2,548 | 3,125 | 4,455 | 5,504 | 5,800 | 4,063 | 5,565 |
| | Total | 63,820 | 59,697 | 54,756 | 56,874 | 62,914 | 65,276 | 66,179 | 72,968 | 71,064 | 69,506 |

[1] Includes Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk police force areas.

[2] Offence groups are shown only where data have been reported within the period given.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

*Table 3: Defendants found guilty at all courts in England, for motoring offences,[1] by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[2] [3]*

*Number*

| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Dangerous driving | 4,024 | 3,633 | 3,716 | 3,807 | 4,512 | 5,035 | 4,951 | 4,330 | 3,987 | 3,817 |
| 3 | Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 77,578 | 74,413 | 71,471 | 70,854 | 76,191 | 78,291 | 80,986 | 79,005 | 78,410 | 76,145 |
| 4 | Careless driving | 39,524 | 33,414 | 29,016 | 25,646 | 22,582 | 20,279 | 19,711 | 19,325 | 18,204 | 27,106 |
| 5 | Accident offences | 5,639 | 5,406 | 5,107 | 5,384 | 5,243 | 5,613 | 5,749 | 5,469 | 5,419 | 5,535 |
| 7 | Driving licence related offences | 37,043 | 37,389 | 37,656 | 38,518 | 41,512 | 49,042 | 52,550 | 48,895 | 43,901 | 41,710 |
| 9 | Vehicle insurance offences | 157,532 | 155,039 | 159,841 | 157,522 | 170,470 | 194,103 | 204,708 | 188,749 | 181,047 | 162,854 |
| 10 | Vehicle registration and excise licence offences | 10,856 | 8,930 | 10,567 | 12,180 | 17,822 | 21,896 | 21,380 | 12,211 | 10,136 | 10,213 |
| 11 | Work record and employment offences | 6,017 | 5,006 | 4,493 | 3,940 | 3,107 | 2,890 | 2,336 | 2,030 | 1,830 | 1,338 |
| 12 | Operator's licence offences | 1,784 | 1,476 | 1,580 | 1,263 | 981 | 777 | 704 | 703 | 640 | 461 |
| 13 | Vehicle test offences | 22,485 | 19,754 | 16,302 | 13,842 | 12,798 | 13,583 | 13,066 | 11,242 | 9,108 | 7,166 |
| 14 | Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records | 4,251 | 3,845 | 3,235 | 3,270 | 3,077 | 3,021 | 2,445 | 1,816 | 1,404 | 1,029 |
| 15 | Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition | 17,446 | 14,476 | 11,661 | 9,141 | 7,670 | 6,961 | 7,387 | 6,674 | 6,207 | 6,189 |
| 16 | Speed limit offences | 138,463 | 133,535 | 124,105 | 121,515 | 110,485 | 122,839 | 134,134 | 141,995 | 137,022 | 134,144 |
| 17 | Motorway offences (other than speeding) | 1,866 | 1,373 | 2,088 | 1,481 | 1,792 | 1,181 | 1,423 | 1,751 | 1,186 | 1,070 |
| 18 | Neglect of traffic directions | 26,337 | 24,999 | 25,486 | 23,582 | 21,516 | 20,823 | 22,372 | 19,556 | 21,076 | 21,077 |
| 19 | Neglect of pedestrian rights | 4,814 | 4,009 | 3,104 | 2,471 | 2,079 | 2,169 | 2,139 | 1,909 | 1,514 | 1,552 |
| 20 | Obstruction, waiting and parking offences | 15,418 | 14,777 | 12,702 | 12,070 | 11,606 | 12,037 | 9,747 | 7,190 | 5,742 | 3,659 |
| 21 | Lighting offences | 4,230 | 3,890 | 2,912 | 2,306 | 2,167 | 2,055 | 2,177 | 2,123 | 1,892 | 1,601 |

*Table 3: Defendants found guilty at all courts in England, for motoring offences,[1] by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[2, 3]*

| | | | | | | | | | | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| 22 | Noise offences | 1,118 | 1,050 | 786 | 655 | 459 | 415 | 376 | 349 | 277 | 219 |
| 23 | Load offences | 12,913 | 9,904 | 9,285 | 7,791 | 6,592 | 6,737 | 5,844 | 4,576 | 4,406 | 4,093 |
| 24 | Offences peculiar to motor cycles | 233 | 201 | 259 | 249 | 213 | 226 | 295 | 209 | 197 | 152 |
| 25 | Miscellaneous motoring offences | 40,394 | 41,838 | 40,449 | 38,236 | 42,851 | 55,151 | 71,505 | 67,896 | 49,384 | 67,024 |
| | Total | 629,965 | 598,357 | 575,821 | 555,723 | 565,725 | 625,124 | 665,985 | 628,003 | 582,909 | 578,154 |

[1] Offence groups are shown only where data have been reported within the period given.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are use.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

*Table 4: Offenders sentenced to immediate custody at all courts in the Bedfordshire police force area, for motoring offences,[1] by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[2, 3]*

| | | | | | | | | | | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| 2 | Dangerous driving | 16 | 13 | 19 | 21 | 29 | 31 | 18 | 27 | 16 | 17 |
| 3 | Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 63 | 52 | 58 | 50 | 47 | 41 | 45 | 55 | 26 | 21 |
| 5 | Accident offences | - | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | - |
| 7 | Driving licence related offences | 190 | 191 | 167 | 175 | 161 | 167 | 163 | 140 | 100 | 78 |
| 9 | Vehicle insurance offences | | - | - | - | | | 1 | | | |
| 14 | Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records | | | | | | | - | | 1 | |
| 23 | Load offences | | | — | | | | | | 1 | - |
| | Total | 269 | 258 | 246 | 246 | 237 | 239 | 227 | 223 | 144 | 117 |

[1] Offence groups are shown only where data have been reported within the period given.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

*Table 5: The number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody at all courts in the East of England Government Office Region,[1] for motoring offences,[2] by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[3, 4]*

| | | | | | | | | | | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| 2 | Dangerous driving | 117 | 115 | 148 | 141 | 177 | 199 | 182 | 160 | 133 | 145 |
| 3 | Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 339 | 348 | 322 | 327 | 332 | 323 | 303 | 344 | 240 | 238 |
| 5 | Accident offences | 3 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 14 | 12 | 14 | 10 | 9 | 15 |
| 7 | Driving licence related offences | 872 | 1,015 | 1,024 | 1,187 | 1,190 | 1,281 | 1,054 | 933 | 712 | 564 |
| 9 | Vehicle insurance offences | 4 | - | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 2 | - |
| 10 | Vehicle registration and excise licence offences | | - | 1 | | | | | | | |

*Table 5: The number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody at all courts in the East of England Government Office Region,[1] for motoring offences,[2] by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[3, 4]*

| | | | | | | | | | | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| 14 | Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | — | 4 | 3 | 2 | — | 1 |
| 16 | Speed limit offences | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| 18 | Neglect of traffic directions | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 23 | Load offences | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 25 | Miscellaneous motoring offences | — | 1 | 3 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| | Total | 1,336 | 1,491 | 1,513 | 1,667 | 1,716 | 1,824 | 1,653 | 1,452 | 1,098 | 963 |

[1] Includes Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk police force areas.

[2] Offence groups are shown only where data have been reported within the period given.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

*Table 6: Number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody at all courts in England, for motoring offences,[1] by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[2, 3]*

| | | | | | | | | | | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| 2 | Dangerous driving | 1,412 | 1,475 | 1,591 | 1,753 | 2,022 | 2,186 | 2,116 | 1,827 | 1,584 | 1,454 |
| 3 | Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 3,536 | 3,433 | 3,239 | 3,249 | 3,099 | 2,880 | 2,811 | 2,580 | 2,104 | 1,879 |
| 4 | Careless driving | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 6 | Accident offences | 52 | 69 | 67 | 70 | 76 | 64 | 70 | 77 | 59 | 49 |
| 7 | Driving licence related offences | 9,966 | 11,230 | 11,665 | 12,402 | 12,562 | 13,300 | 11,177 | 9,175 | 7,008 | 5,420 |
| 9 | Vehicle insurance offences | 8 | 5 | 15 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 18 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| 10 | Vehicle registration and excise licence offences | 1 | — | 2 | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| 13 | Vehicle test offences | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| 14 | Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records | 14 | 22 | 9 | 9 | 20 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 7 | 6 |
| 15 | Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| 16 | Speed limit offences | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | — |
| 18 | Neglect of traffic directions | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| 19 | Neglect of pedestrian rights | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| 20 | Obstruction, waiting and parking offences | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| 23 | Load offences | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 25 | Miscellaneous motoring offences | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| | Total | 14,994 | 16,243 | 16,602 | 17,494 | 17,792 | 18,460 | 16,213 | 13,681 | 10,778 | 8,818 |

[1] Offence groups are shown only where data have been reported within the period given.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

## Drugs: Newcastle

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* trials and *(b)* convictions there have been for drug offences in Newcastle between 2000 and 2009. [302533]

**Claire Ward:** Information showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty at Newcastle Upon Tyne Petty Sessional Area (PSA), including those found guilty at the Crown court where Newcastle Upon Tyne PSA was the committing court for drug offences, 2000 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

*Number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty at Newcastle Upon Tyne petty sessional area (PSA), including those found guilty at the Crown Court where Newcastle Upon Tyne PSA was the committing court for indictable drug offences[1], 2000 to 2007[2, 3]*

| | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Proceeded against | 678 | 832 | 747 | 787 | 541 | 573 | 536 | 505 |
| Found guilty | 588 | 722 | 675 | 708 | 500 | 509 | 530 | 455 |

[1] Includes indictable only and triable either way offences.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

## Electoral Register

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much income local authorities have received from the sale of electoral register details to *(a)* businesses and *(b)* charities in each of the last seven years. [303904]

**Mr. Straw:** The Government do not collect information from local authorities on the revenue received from the sale of the electoral register.

The fees charged for the sale of the registers are set with a view to the recovery of reasonable administration costs. In August 2008, the Local Government Association and the Association of Electoral Administrators surveyed local authorities on the overall income generated by the sale of the edited version of the electoral register. 204 local authorities responded to the survey, which found that the overall revenue received was an average of £1,900 per annum.

The Government are currently consulting on the future of the edited register. The consultation opened on 24 November 2009 and closes on 23 February 2010.

## Henry VIII Clauses

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what Henry VIII powers were enacted in legislation passed in the 2008-09 Parliamentary Session. [303908]

**Mr. Straw:** The Government do not routinely collect or hold information about the number of Henry VIII provisions. However in response to an earlier question from the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on the number of Henry VIII powers that had been enacted up until that point in the 2008-09 Session, a detailed exercise was undertaken to collate the information.

The Minister of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Swindon (Mr. Wills) wrote to the hon. Member for Eddisbury on 10 November 2009 with the following information:

> As you know, a Henry VIII clause is a power in a Bill which enables primary legislation to be amended or repealed by secondary legislation. Such provisions are included in legislation for a variety of reasons.
>
> Due to the diverse nature of this type of power, we cannot be sure that we have captured every instance. However we estimate that there are around 70 such powers contained within legislation enacted so far this Session. At least 10 of these powers are not new, but have been re-enacted this Session and at least 15 of the powers are provisions allowing for consequential amendments. The majority of the remaining powers are narrow in scope, applying in specific circumstances, including 18 powers in the Finance Act 2009.
>
> 15 of the 70 powers are contained in the Banking Act 2009, which was passed in response to the recent period of sustained disruption in global financial markets. The more substantive of these 15 powers are necessary to ensure that the special resolution regime can be used effectively to resolve a failing bank or building society, in order to protect depositors and maintain financial stability.
>
> Parliament has long—and rightly—been hostile to the principle of Henry VIII powers, and so have I and my colleagues. They are only used when there is substantial call for them: no practical alternative of dealing with the issue in the original legislation; and such powers are rarely wide-ranging. The exercise of any Henry VIII power will be subject to subsequent parliamentary approval, either by way of the negative resolution procedure (for example where the change is technical, consequential or minor) or, as in most cases, the affirmative resolution procedure.
>
> All of the powers themselves were subject to parliamentary scrutiny prior to their enactment and were accepted as necessary by Parliament having considered the views of the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee.

In order to answer this question fully, a similar exercise is being undertaken to take account of the Acts that have received Royal Assent since 10 November and I will write to the hon. and learned Member as soon as this exercise is complete. A copy will be placed in the House Library.

## Legal Aid: Asylum

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many asylum seekers were in receipt of legal aid on 1 November 2009. [303818]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Legal Services Commission (LSC) only records the number of claims from providers of asylum work rather than the number of publicly funded asylum seekers at any given point. In the period from April 2008 to March 2009, the LSC funded 46,628 asylum matter starts.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department budgeted for legal aid to asylum seekers in 2009-10. [303819]

**Bridget Prentice:** There is not a separate budget for legal aid in respect of asylum seekers. Asylum seekers may seek legal aid in categories of law other than asylum and like all those seeking legal aid, must satisfy the means and merits tests where it is required in respect of civil categories of law and the means test and interests of justice test where it is required for criminal law.

### Monarchy

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions on the order of succession he has had with his Commonwealth counterparts. [303835]

**Mr. Straw:** I have had some informal and inconclusive discussions with some of my Commonwealth counterparts on this over the years. We have no record of any formal discussion on this.

### NHS: Reciprocal Arrangements

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Health on the implications for the Isle of Man of the decision to cancel the reciprocal agreement between the NHS and the Isle of Man with effect from 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement; [305186]

(2) whether he had discussions with the Secretary of State for Health on the implications for *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* Guernsey of the cancellation of the reciprocal agreement between each island and the NHS from 1 April 2009 prior to the decision to cancel the agreement; and if he will make a statement. [305187]

**Mr. Wills:** There were no discussions between Ministry of Justice and Department of Health Ministers. The decision to cancel the agreement was a matter for Department of Health Ministers alone, but prior to the decision being taken discussions took place between officials of both Departments.

### Personal Injury: Compensation

**Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent research he has commissioned to assess changes in the distribution of payments in respect of personal injury litigation between *(a)* insurers, *(b)* solicitors, *(c)* claimants and *(d)* defendants since the 1996 Woolf Report on Access to Justice; and if he will make a statement. [301919]

**Bridget Prentice:** Research has not been commissioned recently which assesses changes in the distribution of payments in respect of personal injury litigation.

**Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the consequences of the introduction of a fixed costs regime in personal injury litigation with regard to road traffic accidents; and if he will make a statement. [301921]

**Bridget Prentice:** No new research has been commissioned. However, data on current costs were made available to the representative organisations involved in the mediation process which resulted in the agreed fixed costs.

**Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent research he has commissioned on models of funding for personal injury litigation. [303354]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have not recently commissioned research specifically on models of funding for personal injury litigation. However, in June 2008 my Department commissioned a scoping project on 'no win no fee' agreements covering a number of areas including personal injury. We expect to publish the report of the scoping project shortly.

### Prison Accommodation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of prisoners were held in accommodation classified as overcrowded in each year since 1997. [302495]

**Maria Eagle:** A prison's "certified normal accommodation" (CNA) is its agreed capacity when there is no crowding. A prison's "operational capacity" is the maximum number of prisoners it is allowed to hold over and above CNA taking into account control, security and the proper operation of regimes. Operational capacity in prisons is set by the Director of Offender Management on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Operational managers must ensure that each cell used for the confinement of prisoners has sufficient heating, lighting and ventilation and is of adequate size for the number of prisoners to be held in it.

The figures requested are available from 1998-99 onwards and are set out in the following table.

| | *Average number of prisoners in overcrowded accommodation* | *Average percentage of prison population in overcrowded accommodation* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 13079 | 20.0 |
| 1999-2000 | 13083 | 20.1 |
| 2000-01 | 11780 | 18.2 |
| 2001-02 | 13018 | 19.2 |
| 2002-03 | 16684 | 23.3 |
| 2003-04 | 18300 | 24.8 |
| 2004-05 | 18214 | 24.3 |
| 2005-06 | 18356 | 24.0 |
| 2006-07 | 19438 | 24.6 |
| 2007-08 | 20377 | 25.3 |
| 2008-09 | 20452 | 24.7 |

### Prisons: Drugs

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made in the review of Prison Rule 39 on privileged prisoner correspondence recommended by the Blakey Review on disrupting the supply of illicit drugs into prisons; and if he will make a statement. [303435]

**Maria Eagle:** While not making this a formal recommendation in his report David Blakey highlighted the potential for abuse of Rule 39 mail for smuggling drugs. The Government undertook that the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) would review Rule 39 mail to maintain legal privilege while reducing misuse.

The National Offender Management Service takes very seriously the principle of confidential communications between prisoners and their legal representatives which is embodied in Prison Rule 39. Any interference in these communications needs to be against a background of reasonable cause to believe that the communication is being made with the intention of furthering a criminal purpose.

Legally privileged mail can already be opened and read in the presence of the prisoner, where there is specific intelligence to justify it.

Since the report NOMS is consulting with the operational field and its law enforcement partners to establish the threat posed by current Rule 39 procedures and will shortly engage the Law Society to investigate whether and if so how these can be improved.

## Prisons: Females

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many agency staff are working in female prisons. [302326]

**Maria Eagle:** All figures as follows are provided in full-time equivalent (FTE). As at 31 October 2009, there were a total of 33 agency staff and contractors working in public sector female prisons (13 operational support grades, 11 administration grades, eight nursing grades, and one psychology grade). There were a total of 2,970 staff working in female public sector prisons.

There were a total of three agency staff (all healthcare grades) working in contracted out private female prisons. There were a total of 894 staff working in female contracted out private prisons. Kalyx (the private prison contractor) are currently running a recruitment campaign for nurses.

Agency staff and contractor figures provided for the public sector prisons are collected from manual staffing returns supplied by stakeholders in individual establishments and are therefore liable to inaccuracies associated with records of this type. Information for the contracted out private prisons was provided by Kalyx. Information on the number of agency staff and contractors is not held separately within NOMS/HMPS. The figure shown for public sector female prisons therefore relates to the cumulative total of agency staff and contractors.

## Prisons: North Wales

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what projects under what budget headings were funded by the £324,000 plus value added tax spent on due diligence work in connection with the proposed prison site at Caernarfon. [303836]

**Maria Eagle:** Due diligence expenditure on the Dynamex, Caernarfon site fell under three main headings: legal, environmental assessment/valuation, and independent valuation.

The actual expenditure to date on due diligence work is £228,261 plus VAT. The quoted figure of £324,000 plus VAT was the amount originally budgeted for the work.

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he expects to announce his decision on the site of a new prison in North Wales; [303837]

(2) how many sites for a new prison in North Wales his Department is considering. [303838]

**Maria Eagle:** A fresh site search was announced on 27 October 2009 for further sites for new prisons. This will focus in or near areas where the demand for prison places is greatest, including North Wales. Potential sites are in the process of being identified and a shortlist will be drawn up and published in spring 2010.

## Scientists

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions he has met the Government Chief Scientific Adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303882]

**Mr. Straw:** None.

## Sentencing: Offensive Weapons

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 482-3W, on offensive weapons, how many of the six offences receiving the maximum sentence relate specifically to possession of an article with a blade or point. [303789]

**Claire Ward:** Since 12 February 2007 the maximum custodial sentence for knife or offensive weapon possession offences is 4 years. Therefore the answer gives data from March 2007 to June 2009 (the most recent published data from the Knife Crime Sentencing Quarterly brief). Further information is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/knife-crime-sentencing.htm

With reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 482-83W, on offensive weapons, which stated six offences received the maximum sentence of four years custody for possession of a knife or offensive weapon, two of these offences (committed by two offenders) were for possession of an article with a blade or a point.

Maximum penalties are set at a level to provide for the most serious conceivable case of a particular offence and therefore are rarely imposed.

More custodial sentences are being given for knife and offensive weapon possession and those that are sent to jail are serving longer sentences. The proportion of immediate custodial sentences given for possessing a knife or offensive weapon increased from 17 per cent. to 19 per cent. of all sentences between the second quarter of 2008 compared with the same period in 2009. The average sentence length in the second quarter 2009 was 194 days which is a 42 per cent. increase from the same quarter in 2008.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

## Sexual Offences: Rehabilitation

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the timeliness of the delivery of *(a)* internet sex offender programmes and *(b)* community sex offender programmes against scheduled delivery timetables in each probation area in each of the last three years. [303934]

**Mr. Straw:** Delivery for the completion of sex offender treatment programmes (SOTP) is scheduled against annual targets. Targets for the number of completions of SOTP have been negotiated and agreed locally between Probation Areas or Trusts and the NOMS regional (and Wales) offices since 2007-08. In 2006-07 there were no area-level targets for SOTP completions, only a national target. Monthly milestones for delivery throughout the year are also agreed locally. These targets cover the overall provision of SOTP and are not broken down by the programme type.

The targets are included in the Service Level Agreements (or contracts for Probation Trusts) setting out the agreed level of service delivery for each financial year and are signed off by the Regional Offender Manager or now the Director of Offender Management. Performance relative to targets and milestones is assessed quarterly through the Integrated Probation Performance Framework (IPPF), which provides the basis for the published provider ratings.

Sex offender treatment programmes are delivered as a requirement of either a community sentence or release on a post-custodial licence. They are delivered alongside a supervision requirement, which is overseen by an Offender Manager. Supervision commences as soon as the offender is sentenced or released from custody and involves assessment of risk and treatment needs in addition to sentence planning and preparing the offender to engage in treatment. Other measures designed to protect the public may also be put in place, such as Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Supervision requirements for sex offenders are usually longer (up to three years) in order to allow sufficient time for treatment to be completed.

The following table sets out the actual delivery of accredited sex offender treatment programme completions against targets for each probation area since 2006-07.

*Probation sex offender treatment programme delivery targets*

| | 2006-07[1] | | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Probation area* | *Delivery* | *Target* | *Delivery* | *Target* | *Delivery* | *Target* |
| Avon and Somerset | 38 | — | 35 | 48 | 27 | 24 |
| Bedfordshire | 28 | — | 20 | 20 | 15 | 15 |
| Cambridgeshire | 18 | — | 24 | 20 | 24 | 24 |
| Cheshire | 43 | — | 36 | 35 | 40 | 40 |
| County Durham | 12 | — | 14 | 12 | 13 | 12 |
| Cumbria | 14 | — | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 |
| Derbyshire | 27 | — | 29 | 21 | 24 | 21 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 53 | — | 39 | 52 | 50 | 45 |
| Dorset | 21 | — | 20 | 24 | 21 | 20 |
| Dyfed Powys | 6 | — | 4 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| Essex | 46 | — | 29 | 35 | 47 | 41 |
| Gloucestershire | 24 | — | 24 | 22 | 12 | 12 |
| Greater Manchester | 37 | — | 50 | 50 | 60 | 60 |
| Gwent | 14 | — | 15 | 16 | 13 | 13 |
| Hampshire | 24 | — | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 |
| Hertfordshire | 17 | — | 22 | 20 | 26 | 25 |
| Humberside | 29 | — | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| Kent | 47 | — | 48 | 45 | 55 | 50 |
| Lancashire | 42 | — | 45 | 41 | 44 | 43 |
| Leicestershire | 44 | — | 27 | 21 | 28 | 26 |
| Lincolnshire | 17 | — | 22 | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| London | 77 | — | 106 | 100 | 102 | 100 |
| Merseyside | 31 | — | 14 | 30 | 12 | 12 |
| Norfolk | 19 | — | 29 | 29 | 30 | 30 |
| North Wales | 8 | — | 17 | 13 | 26 | 13 |
| North Yorkshire | 13 | — | 16 | 14 | 16 | 14 |
| Northamptonshire | 15 | — | 30 | 30 | 15 | 15 |
| Northumbria | 38 | — | 44 | 44 | 50 | 50 |
| Nottinghamshire | 14 | — | 30 | 30 | 35 | 35 |
| South Wales | 8 | — | 18 | 15 | 15 | 13 |
| South Yorkshire | 39 | — | 37 | 36 | 40 | 36 |
| Staffordshire | 43 | — | 41 | 34 | 42 | 39 |
| Suffolk | 21 | — | 20 | 21 | 20 | 20 |
| Surrey | 22 | — | 16 | 21 | 17 | 17 |
| Sussex | 35 | — | 51 | 50 | 50 | 39 |
| Teesside | 18 | — | 16 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Thames Valley | 53 | — | 65 | 50 | 64 | 60 |
| Warwickshire | 16 | — | 15 | 14 | 15 | 14 |
| West Mercia | 41 | — | 29 | 25 | 30 | 25 |
| West Midlands | 118 | — | 110 | 100 | 110 | 100 |
| West Yorkshire | 48 | — | 64 | 60 | 61 | 60 |
| Wiltshire | 23 | — | 34 | 26 | 27 | 20 |
| England and Wales | 1,304 | [1]1,200 | 1,300 | 1,332 | 1,367 | 1,291 |

[1] In 2006-07 there were no area-level targets for SOTP completions, only a national target.

## Terrorism: Compensation

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of introducing retrospective compensation for British victims of terrorism overseas. [304134]

**Claire Ward:** The Government are considering proposals to establish a scheme to compensate the victims of overseas terrorist attacks. There are a number of complex issues to consider, including whether such a scheme should apply to past terrorist attacks. I expect a decision to be made shortly.

## Truancy

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many parents appeared in court in relation to their children's truancy in *(a)* England and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire in each of the last 10 years. [303716]

**Claire Ward:** Information showing the number of persons proceeded against in relation to their children's truancy in England and Cambridgeshire police force area from 1998 to 2007 (latest available) can be found in the following table.

Data are not available at constituency level; police force area data have been provided in lieu. Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

*Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences relating to truancy[1] in Cambridgeshire police force area and England, 1998 to 2007[2, 3]*

| Proceeded against | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cambridgeshire | 28 | 32 | 65 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 40 | 64 | 49 | 44 |
| England | 4,931 | 4,860 | 5,125 | 6,023 | 6,510 | 6,724 | 7,545 | 7,299 | 8,723 | 10,171 |

[1] Includes the following:
(i) Failure to secure regular attendance at school. (Education Act 1996 S.444 (1)(8))
(ii) Parent knows that their child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school. (Education Act 1996 S.444(1A)(8a) added by Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 S.72).
(iii) Offences against the Education Acts 1944-2002. (This classification to be used when a person is prosecuted for an offence under 'The Education Acts')
(Not to be used where there is a specific code for an offence under one of the Education Acts or for offences under (i) or (ii)).
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice

## Young Offenders: Foster Care

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the evaluation of the Youth Justice Board's intensive fostering scheme has not been completed in accordance with the original timetable; what estimate he has made of the effects on the costs of the evaluation of its extended duration; and when he expects the outcomes of the evaluation to be published. [305353]

**Maria Eagle:** The timetable for the Intensive Fostering Evaluation was extended by nine months from 1 March 2008 to 31 December 2008 to allow extra time for the recruitment of the sample and the control group, as the initial setting up of the pilot programmes and referrals of children into the programme took longer than initially anticipated. The additional cost for this extension was £34,090.00.

The first draft of the Intensive Fostering Evaluation report was received by the Youth Justice Board in December 2008. Since then it has been revised and then sent out to peer review. The peer review comments and questions are in the process of being dealt with and it will be available for publication in the first quarter of 2010. The delays have not affected the cost of the evaluation as dealing with reviews and comments is built in to the initial contract.

## HEALTH

### Accident and Emergency Departments: Greater London

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of patients using accident and emergency services in the London North Central District in each of the last five years. [304554]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Information is collected on first attendances in accident and emergency (A&E) departments. This excludes follow up visits for the same condition, but counts each attendance by the same patient for different conditions separately. The following table shows reported first attendances for north central London.

*First attendances at A and E departments, minor injury units and walk in centres, NHS organisations in London North Central District, 2004-05 - 2008-09*

| | | First attendances | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Org ID | Name | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
| RVL | Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust | 137,251 | 146,756 | 149,436 | 145,965 | 150,072 |
| 5A9 | Barnet Primary Care Trust | 69,691 | 62,493 | 64,122 | 73,256 | 76,570 |
| 5C9 | Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust | — | — | — | — | 30,640 |
| RP6 | Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 33,052 | 45,202 | 52,664 | 58,671 | 64,487 |
| RAP | North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | 142,414 | 153,203 | 151,702 | 140,171 | 107,902 |
| RAL | Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust | 73,522 | 75,136 | 73,717 | 74,062 | 77,300 |
| RKE | The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | 77,283 | 89,921 | 91,715 | 89,231 | 86,991 |
| RRV | University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 76,900 | 82,109 | 91,439 | 94,982 | 93,558 |
| | Total | 610,123 | 674,996 | 693,865 | 675,232 | 695,520 |

*Source:*
Department of Health Quarterly Monitoring of A and E dataset

## Care Homes

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of residential care homes that would convert to sheltered accommodation or extra care housing as a result of the implementation of his legislative proposals on personal care at home. [304855]

**Phil Hope:** It is open to any residential care home to reshape their service, subject to appropriate registration of the new service. Comments are welcomed on the likely impact of these proposals in the current consultation, "Personal Care at Home: a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance", and this is something that we will wish to explore with relevant stakeholders. A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

## Care Homes: Standards

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a care home requires a valid planning consent in order to comply with the national minimum standards for care homes set out by his Department. [305350]

**Phil Hope:** It is for local planning authorities to determine whether planning consents are required in individual cases.

Under the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Health and Social Care Acts 2003 and 2008, the Government have set up an independent regime of inspection and regulation of health and social care providers. All care homes in England are regulated—registered and inspected—by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

CQC regulates care homes in accordance with statutory regulations—the Care Homes Regulations 2001—and national minimum standards. The regulations set out what providers must do by law. The Government introduced national minimum standards to set out clearly what care homes are expected to provide to demonstrate that they comply with the regulations.

Further information is available at:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/Planning/ThePlanningSystem/

and

www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/public/planning/

## Care Quality Commission: Expenditure

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Care Quality Commission has spent on *(a)* public relations, *(b)* public affairs and *(c)* surveys of hon. Members since its creation. [303023]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Care Quality Commission (CQC) took over from the Healthcare Commission, the Mental Health Act Commission and the Commission for Social Care Inspection on 1 April 2009.

CQC has informed us that expenditure on CQC's media and public affairs from 1 April 2009 to 31 October 2009 was £439,508 for staff costs and £156,672 for non-staff costs. CQC does not have a budget for public relations activity.

Since 1 April 2009, CQC has commissioned part of one survey of hon. Members. This survey is ongoing. The CQC is an independent organisation and has told us that the cost to CQC is £14,985 not including VAT.

## Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305503]

**Phil Hope:** In 2008, the Department received 1,349 requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Within these 1,349 requests, 1,167 received a substantive response within 20-days.

## Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Eddisbury of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 853W, on departmental public relations, what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* purpose was of hiring each public affairs consultancy for each of the listed bodies; and what company was hired in each case. [305025]

**Phil Hope:** The information requested is not held centrally.

The data requested is operational detail that can be obtained directly from the bodies concerned. Those bodies which procured work from public affairs consultancies between 1999-2000 and 2008-09 were identified in the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 853W. More detailed information about this work can be sought from the individual bodies concerned.

## Dieticians: Qualifications

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding on average his Department provides for a four year dietetics degree which allows the holder to register as a registered dietician with the Health Profession Council. [303777]

**Ann Keen:** The Department provides funding to strategic health authorities to commission training places on dietician degree courses. In 2008-09, the bench mark price for the cost of tuition in that year for a four year dietetics degree was £8,830 per national health service funded student. Eligible students on this course also receive a means tested NHS bursary from the NHS Student Bursaries Unit. In 2008-09 the average NHS bursary per eligible student was £2,482 for that year.

In addition to the NHS bursary, dietician students are also eligible to apply for a non means tested student loan from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

## Driving

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which (i) his Department and (ii) one of its executive agencies is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) his Department and (B) one of its executive agencies have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302164]

**Phil Hope:** Staff in the Department and its agencies do not use departmental vehicles. Those staff who use their own vehicles for business use, are personally responsible for ensuring that insurance and other driving documentation requirements are met. This must be confirmed on each claim for reimbursement of such expenses.

No specific guidance is issued in respect of road safety. Road traffic accidents are not reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995.

### Exercise

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects of regular exercise on the health of people aged *(a)* 18 to 25, *(b)* 26 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 69 and *(d)* 70 years old and more. [304219]

**Gillian Merron:** The Chief Medical Officer's report "At least five a week"—Evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health—sets out the evidence for the health benefits of regular physical activity for children and adolescents, adults and older adults. It was published in 2004 and a copy of the report has already been placed in the Library.

To take in to account more recent research, the Department is currently working with Welsh Assembly Government, Public Health Agency for Northern Ireland and NHS Health Scotland to review the existing United Kingdom recommendations for the "dose" of physical activity required for general health benefits.

### Gender Identity Disorder: Prisoners

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Prison Service Order on gender dysphoria to be published. [304662]

**Phil Hope:** A draft Prison Service Order (PSO) on guidelines for the management, treatment and care of prisoners who have or have had gender dysphoria is currently undergoing revision following the ruling of a recent Judicial Review in which the claimant, a pre-operative transgender prisoner, applied for Judicial Review of a decision of the defendant Secretary of State for Justice refusing to transfer her from a male prison to a female prison. The application was accepted and the outcome ruled in favour of the claimant.

The Department is currently reviewing the health aspects of the draft PSO and will provide advice to officials at the Ministry of Justice who are responsible for all other aspects within the PSO.

There is no agreed date as yet for publication of the PSO. The final PSO will be comprehensive as it deals with very complex issues such as the general position in law on the Gender Recognition Act 2004 and Disclosure of Information as well as general principles concerning the treatment of prisoners living 'in role', and guidance around searching. This PSO will ensure that all staff are fully aware and understand the protocols for managing prisoners who have or have had gender dysphoria.

### General Social Care Council

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the General Social Care Council's report for 2008-09 to be published. [303704]

**Ann Keen:** The General Social Care Council's Annual Report and Accounts for 2008-09 are expected to be published on 7 December 2009.

### Health Services: Crown Dependencies

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* the total monetary value was of elective health treatment purchased from the NHS by the Isle of Man government in each of the last 20 years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [301050]

(2) with which *(a)* countries, *(b)* overseas territories and *(c)* other jurisdictions the National Health Service has reciprocal agreements comparable to the agreement between the NHS and the Isle of Man; and if he will make a statement; [304444]

(3) on what statutory basis he cancelled the reciprocal agreement between the NHS and *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* Guernsey in respect of (i) Scotland, (ii) Northern Ireland and *(c)* Wales; and if he will make a statement; [304549]

(4) what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department had with their counterparts in (i) the Northern Ireland Executive, (ii) the Scottish Executive and (iii) the Welsh Assembly Government on the discontinuance of reciprocal health arrangements between the NHS and (A) Guernsey and (B) Jersey with effect from 1 April 2009; and if he will make a statement; [304529]

(5) what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with their counterparts in the Scottish Executive on the discontinuance of reciprocal health arrangements between the NHS and the Isle of Man with effect from 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [304832]

**Gillian Merron** *[holding answer for PQ301050 25 November 2009]:* In addition to the Isle of Man, the United Kingdom Government currently have reciprocal healthcare agreements with Australia, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, New Zealand, Russia, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Serbia Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia.

All of these agreements are similar in that they provide healthcare cover for tourists from non European Union member states.

The Overseas Territories of Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, St. Helena and Turks and Caicos can each refer, to the national health service, four patients per year, specifically for elective treatment.

In the case of the Isle of Man and Gibraltar, a financial allocation is set aside each year and is made available for elective treatment following clinical referral.

The following table shows the allocation provided by the UK to the Isle of Man under the terms of the bi-lateral healthcare agreement. This allocation is used to fund elective NHS healthcare. The Isle of Man may also have commissioned elective treatment outside of the terms of the agreement but this information is not held by the Department of Health centrally.

Allocation made available to the Isle of Man under reciprocal healthcare agreement:

*Allocation to Isle of Man*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 2.80 |
| 2007-08 | 2.65 |
| 2006-07 | 2.50 |
| 2005-06 | 2.35 |
| 2004-05 | 2.21 |

*Note*
Prior to 2004-05 allocation was uncapped

The agreement with the Isle of Man contained a six-month notice period; the UK Government exercised that right and a termination date of 31 March 2010 was agreed with the Isle of Man. The Department gave notice on the agreements with both the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man on behalf of the UK. Prior to this, departmental officials consulted with the Ministry of Justice and with officials from the devolved Administrations.

## Hospitals: Hygiene

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the level of hand hygiene among (i) doctors, (ii) nurses, (iii) other NHS staff, (iv) patients and (v) visitors to hospitals in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [304158]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department's policy research programme has funded an independent four year research study to assess the implementation of the clean your hands campaign, its sustainability, and the impact on hand hygiene and on health care associated infection. The evaluation has shown that, as a result of the campaign, there has been a sustained change in hand hygiene behaviour in acute hospitals nationally, with a three-fold rise in procurement and use of alcohol hand rub and soap; and that there appears to be a strong association between reductions in methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia and use of alcohol hand rub.

Further information about the evaluation is available online at:

www.idrn.org/nosec.php

## Impact Assessments

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Regulatory Impact Assessments published by his Department have cited peace of mind as a policy objective since 1997. [304952]

**Phil Hope:** The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Mental Capacity Act 2005

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* amendments have been made to and *(b)* representations he has received on the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [303895]

**Phil Hope:** There have been no amendments made to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in the last 12 months.

A number of representations have been made in the last 12 months as shown in the following table.

| *Case type* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Parliamentary questions | 3 |
| Departmental e-mails | 52 |
| Correspondence | 24 |
| Telephone inquiry | 1 |
| Total | 80 |

## Mental Health Services: Prisoners

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on services for people in the criminal justice system with mental health conditions; and if he will make a statement. [304678]

**Phil Hope:** Ministers and officials at the Department of Health and Ministry of Justice work closely together to improve the health care available for people in the criminal justice system.

Improving Health, Supporting Justice, the national delivery plan of the health and criminal justice programme board was published on 17 November. It includes the Government's response to Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system.

## NHS: Finance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated to the NHS research and development budget in each of the last five years; and how much such funding had not been disbursed at the end of each such financial year. [303702]

**Gillian Merron:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*£ million*

| | *National health service research and development budget* | *Funding not disbursed to research and development at year end* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 601 | 2.1 |
| 2005-06 | 617 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 659 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 730 | [1]28.8 |
| 2008-09 | 702 | 2.7 |

[1] Includes £26 million reallocated to meet other departmental priorities.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent per capita in each primary care trust in England in each of the last three years. [304457]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information has been placed in the Library.

## NHS: Procurement

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on medical supplies and equipment in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [304252]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Total revenue expenditure on clinical supplies and services taken from the national health service audited summarisation schedules was £4,922,822,000 in 2008-09, which is the latest period for which figures are available.

Revenue expenditure on clinical supplies and services is taken to include drugs, dressings, medical and surgical equipment, x-ray equipment and supplies, laboratory equipment, appliances (e.g. artificial limbs and wheelchair hardware) and the maintenance of equipment. The Department does not collect information that allows capital expenditure on medical equipment to be disaggregated from total capital expenditure.

## NHS: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* medical consultants, *(b)* other medical staff, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* other professional staff, *(e)* administrative and clerical staff and *(f)* auxiliary staff were employed by (i) Pontefract and Pinderfields NHS Trust and (ii) Dewsbury NHS Trust between 1996 and 2002. [303935]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. In 2002, Pinderfields and Pontefract NHS Trust and Dewsbury Health Care NHS Trust merged to form the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust. Therefore the figures for the individual trusts are not available for 2002. The information that is available is shown in the following table:

*NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in each specified organisation by main staff group as at 30 September each year*

*Full-time equivalent*

| | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Dewsbury Health Care NHS Trust* | 1,857 | 1,829 | 1,868 | 2,020 | 2,120 | 2,255 |
| All medical and dental staff | 145 | 147 | 150 | 156 | 166 | 194 |
| Consultant | 46 | 45 | 47 | 52 | 59 | 63 |
| Other medical and dental staff | 99 | 102 | 103 | 105 | 107 | 130 |
| | | | | | | |
| All non-medical staff | 1,712 | 1,682 | 1,718 | 1,864 | 1,954 | 2,061 |
| Professionally qualified clinical staff | 911 | 880 | 906 | 997 | 1,036 | 1,088 |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | 705 | 679 | 681 | 750 | 772 | 807 |
| Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff (S,T and T) | 206 | 201 | 225 | 246 | 264 | 281 |
| | | | | | | |
| Support to clinical staff | 554 | 557 | 570 | 591 | 630 | 676 |
| Support to doctors and nursing staff | 481 | 482 | 489 | 502 | 535 | 574 |
| Support to S,T and T staff | 73 | 75 | 81 | 88 | 96 | 101 |
| | | | | | | |
| NHS infrastructure support | 245 | 243 | 242 | 276 | 287 | 297 |
| Central functions | 135 | 136 | 133 | 162 | 178 | 183 |
| Hotel, property and estates | 73 | 71 | 70 | 77 | 76 | 77 |
| Managers and senior managers | 37 | 36 | 39 | 37 | 34 | 38 |
| | | | | | | |
| Other staff or those with unknown classification | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Pinderfields and Pontefract NHS Trust* | 3,550 | 3,477 | 3,541 | 3,504 | 3,495 | 3,669 |
| Medical and dental staff | 297 | 308 | 321 | 192 | 203 | 204 |
| Consultant | 106 | 107 | 115 | 119 | 123 | 120 |
| Other medical and dental staff | 191 | 201 | 206 | 73 | 80 | 83 |
| | | | | | | |
| All non-medical staff | 3,253 | 3,169 | 3,220 | 3,312 | 3,292 | 3,465 |
| Professionally qualified clinical staff | 1,594 | 1,573 | 1,602 | 1,642 | 1,612 | 1,653 |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | 1,219 | 1,198 | 1,216 | 1,243 | 1,187 | 1,204 |
| Qualified S,T and T staff | 375 | 375 | 386 | 399 | 425 | 449 |
| | | | | | | |
| Support to clinical staff | 1,028 | 1,034 | 1,092 | 1,127 | 1,122 | 1,212 |
| Support to doctors and nursing staff | 873 | 883 | 936 | 960 | 939 | 964 |
| Support to S,T and T staff | 155 | 151 | 156 | 167 | 183 | 248 |
| | | | | | | |
| NHS infrastructure support | 628 | 559 | 523 | 539 | 554 | 596 |
| Central functions | 166 | 155 | 136 | 142 | 151 | 168 |
| Hotel, property and estates | 383 | 333 | 322 | 329 | 345 | 366 |
| Managers and senior managers | 79 | 71 | 67 | 68 | 59 | 59 |
| | | | | | | |
| Other staff or those with unknown classification | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 |

*Notes:*

1. In 1996, Pontefract Hospitals NHS Trust and Pinderfields Hospitals NHS Trust merged to form Pinderfields and Pontefract NHS Trust. Figures for 1996 are an aggregate of these two predecessor organisations.

2. Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care

## Social Enterprise Investment Fund

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which organisations have received grants from his Department's Social Enterprise Investment Fund since July 2008; and how much each has received; [304254]

(2) on what date each organisation in receipt of a grant from the Social Enterprise Investment Fund *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received its grant; [304255]

(3) how much funding his Department has assigned to the Social Enterprise Investment Fund for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; [304256]

(4) what criteria are used to assess applications to his Department's Social Enterprise Investment Fund. [304257]

**Phil Hope:** The allocations for the Social Enterprise Investment Fund (SEIF) are as follows.

| | *Revenue (£ million) (Revenue includes fund manager costs)* | *Capital (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 8.534 | 11 |
| 2009-10 | 9.294 | 26 |

The criteria used to assess applications are published on the Department's website, and are as follows:

you have to be a social enterprise according to the Government definition—"a business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally invested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners";

your proposed services have to deliver health and/or social care outcomes;

the ultimate beneficiaries of your proposal must be based in England;

you have to be unable to secure funding from a commercial bank;

you must be able to repay the investment and be able to show how you plan to do so; and

your proposal must help meet the aims of SEIF.

The organisations that have received investment from the SEIF are in a table which has been placed in the Library.

To date in 2009-10 the following organisations have been beneficiaries of the SEIF from Social Investment Business

£

| *Organisation* | *Business development grant* | *Revenue grant* | *Revenue loan* | *Capital loan* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Destiny Support | — | 4,000.00 | — | — |
| Middle UK CIC | — | — | 50,000.00 | — |
| Deep Green Care Community | 10,250.00 | — | — | — |
| Eagle Recruitment Centre | — | 10,000.00 | — | 80,000.00 |
| Paul Lambden (East Lancs PCT) | 12,000.00 | — | — | — |
| DeCoda | — | — | 115,000.00 | — |
| Caleb CIC | — | — | 50,000.00 | 234,571.27 |

## Social Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost of implementing the provisions of personal care as set out in the Personal Care at Home Bill using a definition of personal care which includes the services listed in paragraph 4.9 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill. [304787]

**Phil Hope:** It is not appropriate to do so, as Instrumental Activities of Daily Living are outside the definition of Personal Care as set out under the draft regulations being made under sections 8 and 20 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 4.6 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, if he will publish by the end of 2009 *(a)* the model and *(b)* the costing produced by the model. [304788]

**Phil Hope:** As stated in the Impact Assessment, work on this is ongoing. We are currently modelling costs and will be consulting more widely with stakeholders to test those costing assumptions. The consultation will run until 23 February 2010.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 5.2 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, whether the expectation of costs of providing personal care reflects an expected use in *(a)* unit costs, *(b)* costs to councils or *(c)* other costs. [304789]

**Phil Hope:** The point being made in paragraph 5.2 of the Impact Assessment is that the 'do nothing' option will not impose any additional costs beyond those currently met by councils or individuals. In addition, those individuals who currently make a means-tested contribution to their care costs will not, under the 'do nothing' option, be protected against any future increases in the care charges levied by councils.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to table 2 and Annex 1 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, if he will publish the logistic model used to calculate each individual's need for formal care; and from what source data were derived to populate that model. [304796]

**Phil Hope:** The logistic regression model referred to in Annex 1 is used to estimate a continuous measure of need for individuals 65 and over in the third wave of the English longitudinal study of ageing (ELSA). The data used to populate the model was from the third wave of ELSA. The specification of the model is as follows:

$$\text{logit}(p) = b_0 + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3 + b_4X_4 + b_5X_5 + b_6X_6 + b_7X_7 + b_8X_8 + b_9X_9$$

where p is the probability of receiving formal care (either state, private or voluntary sector funded)

$b_0$ is a constant term

$b_1$ to $b_9$ are co-efficients on the independent variables $X_1$ to $X_9$

$X_1$ is the individual's age in years

$X_2$ is the square of the individual's age in years

$X_3$ is 1 if the individual has difficulty with dressing and 0 if not

$X_4$ is 1 if the individual has difficulty with walking and 0 if not

$x_5$ is 1 if the individual has difficulty with bathing and 0 if not

$x_6$ is 1 if the individual has difficulty with eating and 0 if not

$x_7$ is 1 if the individual has difficulty with going to bed and 0 if not

$x_8$ is 1 if the individual has difficulty with going to the toilet and 0 if not

$x_9$ is 1 if the individual lives alone and 0 if not

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to Annex A of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, from what source the assumption that home care represents 74 per cent. of overall community care costs and personal care represents 85 per cent. of that is derived. [304798]

**Phil Hope:** The figure of 74 per cent. is derived from Personal Social Services EX1 expenditure data for older people and estimated by expressing the expenditure on home care services in terms of overall expenditure. In the absence of data on the share of home care costs represented by personal care we have made a conservative, illustrative assumption of 85 per cent.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 5.9 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what methodology was used to reach the estimate that a further 108,964 persons already have their personal care needs met free of charge; and what the equivalent estimated figure is for *(a)* 2015, *(b)* 2020, *(c)* 2025 and *(d)* 2030. [304800]

**Phil Hope:** The Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU)'s micro-simulation model for older people estimated a volume of fair access to care services (FACS) critical individuals who already receive state-funded care at home.

This figure was broken down into those who are FACS critical and report difficulty with four or more activities of daily living (ADLs) by using the information in the English longitudinal study of ageing, which is presented in table 1 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill. The 108,964 represents the residual volume of FACS critical individuals from PSSRU's model—i.e. those reporting difficulty with less than four ADLs.

The figures in the impact assessment cover the period from October 2010 to the end of 2012-13. Estimating beyond this point is problematic because of the uncertainties involved. For instance, the proposals here are intended as a step towards a fully integrated national care service, at which point a different set of assumptions may need to be applied.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the net present value costs identified in table 3 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill are inconsistent with the present value costs identified on page 2. [304801]

**Phil Hope:** Table 3 of the impact assessment shows the net present value costs of extending the offer of free personal care at home to those in highest need—i.e. individuals who are estimated to be fair access to care services critical and who report difficulty with four or more activities of daily living. The net present value costs reported in the summary sheet on page 2 also include the costs of offering re-ablement services, estimated to be £130 million in 2011-12.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the inherent uncertainties referred to in paragraph 5.10 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill are. [304802]

**Phil Hope:** The uncertainties are those aspects of people's behaviour that will change as a result of the introduction of these proposals. An accurate forecast of these therefore cannot be made. The impact of the policy will be reviewed after 12-18 months to ensure that it is being applied properly and that there are no perverse incentives.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 5.11 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what his Department's *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum estimate of re-ablement costs are. [304803]

**Phil Hope:** We understand that there is wide variability in costs of re-ablement in different councils. The Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill makes clear that the £1,000 cost of re-ablement per person is an assumption—paragraph 5.15 states, "If we assume the cost of a package of re-ablement is £1,000 per person..."—and its derivation is clearly and transparently stated in Annex B. Given the uncertainties associated with alternative cost figures and the relatively conservative stance taken with regard to potential benefits, the £1,000 per person estimate used in the impact assessment is not considered to be unreasonable.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 5.12 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, if he will place in the Library a copy of the model referred to. [304804]

**Phil Hope:** The model referred to in paragraphs 5.12, 5.13 and Annex B of the Impact Assessment is still under development. For this reason, its output has not been incorporated into any of the figures reported in the Impact Assessment. The model will continue to be updated and refined as more information becomes available.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill; whether he plans to make individuals eligible for more than one package of re-ablement funded by the taxpayer. [304805]

**Phil Hope:** This is something that we invite comments on as part of the consultation, 'Personal Care at Home: a consultation on proposals for regulation and guidance', a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. There are currently no proposals to restrict packages of re-ablement. It will be for councils to determine who might benefit from this intervention and whether it is appropriate to repeat this at a later date.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 4.6 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, in what cases he expects the indicative sum to be administered *(a)* by the council and *(b)* through an individual budget or direct payment. [304812]

**Phil Hope:** It will be for individuals to choose whether they wish the council to provide services through a personal budget on their behalf or whether they wish to take a direct payment and arrange services for themselves.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what re-ablement schemes he expects to be available; and what home additions might be made under such schemes. [304814]

**Phil Hope:** This would be a matter for local discretion based on the assessment of an individual's needs. In our consultation, 'Personal Care at Home: a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance', we suggest that this could include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, installation of telecare or adaptations to the house. A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to Annex B of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, how the average number of hours of personal care per week of 6.54 was calculated; and whether the *(a)* calculation and *(b)* figure of 6.54 hours has been published by his Department previously. [304815]

**Phil Hope:** The model referred to in paragraphs 5.12, 5.13 and Annex B of the Impact Assessment is still under development. For this reason, its output has not been incorporated into any of the figures reported in the Impact Assessment. The model will continue to be updated and refined as more information becomes available.

The assumption used for the average number of hours of personal care per week of 6.54 was used for illustrative purposes. It is derived by converting the cost and volume estimates from the Personal Social Services Research Unit's (PSSRU) micro-simulation model for older people into an equivalent weekly number of hours. Although this figure has not been previously published, a reference to a technical paper giving further details of PSSRU's micro-simulation model is given in Annex A of the Impact Assessment.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 5.13 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what his Department's *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum estimates of net savings are. [304816]

**Phil Hope:** The model referred to in paragraphs 5.12, 5.13 and Annex B of the impact assessment is still under development. For this reason, its output has not been incorporated into any of the figures reported in the Impact Assessment. The model will continue to be updated and refined as more information becomes available.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to Table 4 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what methodology was used to calculate each estimate; [304837]

(2) with reference to paragraph 5.21 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, on what grounds he made his illustrative assumptions; and when the further work in paragraph 5.23 will be *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* published; [304853]

(3) with reference to the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what methodology was used to calculate the figure given for total benefit. [304949]

**Phil Hope:** A technical paper that addresses these points has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to collect centrally data relating to *(a)* Fair Access to Care Services critical people and *(b)* reablement. [304845]

**Phil Hope:** The consultation document, "Personal Care at Home: a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance", has sought views from councils on what data may be required and how they might be collected. A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to operate his policy on free personal care as set out in the Personal Care at Home Bill by means of individual budgets. [304846]

**Phil Hope:** The consultation document, "Personal Care at Home: a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance", makes it clear that we intend that the free personal care component would form part of a personal budget and could be used flexibly to meet agreed outcomes. A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Explanatory Notes for the Personal Care at Home Bill, whether external legal advice was sought on the effects on human rights of the proposals in the Personal Care at Home Bill. [304849]

**Phil Hope:** Legal advice relating to legislation is generally provided by departmental lawyers. No external legal advice was sought on this matter.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether children would be eligible to receive taxpayer-funded personal care under his proposals for personal care as set out in the Personal Care at Home Bill. [304850]

**Phil Hope:** These proposals are for adults over the age of 18. Children will continue to be covered, as they are now, under separate legislation.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 7.10 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what *(a)* events and *(b)* submissions have contributed to the consultation being undertaken on effects on particular regions; and if he will publish (i) the responses to and (ii) the outcomes of this consultation by the end of December 2009. [304854]

**Phil Hope:** Comments on the impact of the policy on different councils are invited in the consultation document, "Personal Care at Home: a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. The consultation will run until 23 February and a response will be published following that.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 7.10 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, how many beneficiaries he expects there to be in each local authority area in England. [304858]

**Phil Hope:** This information is not available at a local authority level.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of people assessed as critical under the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) eligibility framework in each of the last five years were subsequently assigned to another FACS band. [304859]

**Phil Hope:** This information is not held centrally.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether free personal care under his proposed changes to the care system would continue if a person assessed as critical under the Fair Access to Care Services eligibility framework was subsequently assessed at a different level. [304860]

**Phil Hope:** Councils are under a duty to regularly assess an individual's needs and adjust the support available to them as needs change. Under our proposals, if an individual should no longer meet the criteria they would no longer be eligible for free personal care.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what assessment he has made of the effects of enactment of his legislative proposals on competition in the care home sector. [304946]

**Phil Hope:** This policy is designed to support individuals who want to live at home for as long as possible where this is what they wish. With an ageing population there will continue to be a need for residential care, and this will remain an appropriate setting in which to meet some people's care needs.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, for what reasons the impact assessment does not include costings for policy enforcement by local authorities. [304947]

**Phil Hope:** An estimate of the associated administrative costs of the policy for local authorities is included in table 2 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill and these have been estimated at £27 million.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the merits of a national resource allocation system for the provision of free personal care; and if he will make a statement. [305028]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has looked at the merits of a national resource allocation system (RAS). The range of provision varies substantially between different local authorities, which makes a national RAS unrealistic at the present time.

As part of the Regulations and guidance which will inform the working of the Personal Care at Home Bill, the Department plans to develop a national assessment tool for all authorities to use to ensure a consistent application of the eligibility criteria for free personal care at home. The consultation document, Personal Care at Home: a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance, asks for comments on three options as to how available resources and funding might be allocated to individuals by councils. The consultation document has already been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the capacity of local authorities to provide free personal care under the terms of the Personal Care at Home Bill; and if he will make a statement. [305029]

**Phil Hope:** The plans for free personal care at home for those with the highest care needs should build on the most innovative practices already adopted by many local authorities and primary care trusts. We have already begun engaging with local authority stakeholders to discuss the workings of the scheme, and councils are invited to respond to the consultation document, "Personal Care at Home: a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance". The consultation document has already been placed in the Library.

### Social Services: Finance

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's Personal Care at Home consultation document, from what budgets the £420 million of central funding will be drawn. [304700]

**Phil Hope:** Changes to planned expenditure in 2010-11 to cover the Department's £420 million contribution to the funding of the Personal Care at Home Bill include nearly £50 million from indicative advertising and communications spending, over £60 million from management consultancy spending and over £20 million in reduced administration costs.

In addition, a saving of £62 million will be achieved by transferring responsibility for research activity from other departmental budgets to the Department's ring-fenced research and development budget. That budget will rise to over £1 billion in 2010-11. The research it currently funds will continue as planned.

### Tuberculosis: Health Services

**Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will establish a national programme to co-ordinate the provision of prevention and control services for tuberculosis. [303794]

**Gillian Merron:** Tuberculosis (TB) services delivered by the national health service are recommended to follow the advice contained in the Chief Medical Officer's Action Plan Stopping Tuberculosis in England published in 2004, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance Clinical diagnosis and management of tuberculosis and measures for its prevention and treatment published in 2006, and the Department's TB Toolkit Tuberculosis prevention and treatment: a toolkit for planning, commissioning and delivering high-quality services in England issued in 2007. Copies of the plan and toolkit have already been placed in the Library.

Organisation and delivery of TB services are the responsibility of NHS management, and we have held stakeholder meetings to work with local services to review the overall strategy for TB control.

We have also delivered a number of initiatives to TB services across England; including:

Free treatment drugs for all TB patients have been provided; and

Systematic screening of prisoners for TB in key prisons is being implemented.

In addition, we are funding an awareness raising strategy, aimed at primary healthcare professionals with locally targeted messages to high-risk groups to improve early detection.

**Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* criteria and *(b)* methodology his Department uses to determine the effectiveness of the port of entry system in the monitoring of tuberculosis. [303795]

**Gillian Merron:** Screening at ports of entry is a Home Office policy, and managed by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Therefore, the Department has no specific criteria for determining the effectiveness of the port of entry tuberculosis (TB) screening programme.

The HPA indicate that just over 0.1 per cent. of those screened by X-rays at Gatwick and Heathrow are reported to have pulmonary TB.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Home Information Packs

18. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects of home information packs on the housing market since their introduction. [304614]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** We are currently working up proposals to evaluate the effectiveness of the HIPs programme and expect the results to be available in 2010. Early independent research undertaken by Europe Economics and published in November 2007 concluded that the introduction of HIPs would not have a negative impact on the housing market.

### Business Rates Revaluation

19. **Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will conduct an impact assessment on the effect on businesses of the 2010 business rates revaluation. [304615]

**Barbara Follett:** Regular revaluations are a standard part of the business rates system and are required by statute. Therefore, no impact assessment has been undertaken by my Department on the overall implementation of the 2010 business rates revaluation.

A final impact assessment of our £2 billion transitional relief scheme for revaluation 2010 was published on 17 November.

### Northumberland Unitary Authority

20. **Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will visit Northumberland to discuss the funding of the new unitary authority. [304616]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I can reassure the right hon. Gentleman that I have already had discussions with Northumberland about funding.

My right. hon. Friend the Secretary of State, along with my right hon. Friend the Minister for the North East met the leader and chief executive of Northumberland in the summer.

In addition, officials are maintaining a regular dialogue with council officers, with their next meeting being in Morpeth on Friday this week.

### Kirkby: Regeneration

22. **Mr. George Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is for the regeneration of Kirkby; and if he will make a statement. [304618]

**Mr. Denham:** Her Majesty's Government recognise the importance of regeneration in Kirkby, as demonstrated by the £72 million of public and European investment that has been made into Kirkby and the surrounding areas.

My right hon. Friend met yesterday with my right hon. Friend the Minister for the North West (Mr. Woolas), to explore opportunities for the development of Kirkby town centre. It was agreed that a proposal would be produced for the redevelopment of the town centre to create enhanced retail, leisure, office and public sector facilities for the residents of Kirkby. Key regional bodies will be working with partners in Knowsley to develop this proposal, and I have asked my officials to keep closely involved in supporting and monitoring progress on this work.

The Regional Minister will chair a further meeting in early January to take stock of progress.

### Tenants Rights

23. **Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps he has taken to protect the rights of tenants; and if he will make a statement. [304619]

**John Healey:** The Government's response to Julie Rugg's independent review of the private rented sector set out a range of proposals aimed at improving the quality and professionalism of the sector for tenants.

### Fire-setting

24. **Ms Barlow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps fire and rescue services have taken to discourage fire-setting behaviour in juveniles and adults. [304620]

**Mr. Malik:** The Fire and Rescue Service is increasingly engaged in a range of youth work activities, specifically targeting youths at risk from social exclusion, and those who show signs of fire play, including adults, as part of their community safety work. To support Fire and Rescue Services CLG is working with the Arson Control Forum to help steer the direction of their work programme. This will include encouraging further Fire and Rescue Service activity to address fire related antisocial behaviour activity by children and adults, as research shows that intervention can help reduce the problem.

### Out-of-town Supermarkets

25. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account the planning guidance issued by his Department takes of the effect on town centres of the location of out-of-town supermarkets. [304621]

**John Healey:** Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS6) requires a sequential approach to site selection to ensure that the most central sites are considered first. It also requires local authorities to consider whether unplanned edge or out-of-centre proposals will result in any unacceptable impacts on existing centres. PPS6 will soon be replaced with Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for prosperous economies (PPS4) which will strengthen the approach to assessing the impact of development proposals for town centre uses.

### Worklessness

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the role of local authorities in reducing worklessness. [304617]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I, my ministerial colleagues and my officials, are in regular contact with a range of organisations on this important issue, including individual local authorities and the Local Government Association.

Local authorities and their partners play a vital role in tackling worklessness, through leading, co-ordinating and delivering integrated partnership responses to worklessness that are tailored to local needs.

That is why we topped-up the £1.5 billion Working Neighbourhoods Fund with an additional £40 million last month, and that is why local authority-led partnerships are responsible for around half of the 95,00 Future Jobs Fund jobs announced so far.

### Business and Community Safety Forum

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to extend the appointment of Councillor Les Byrom as Chair of the Business and Community Safety Forum; and if he will make a statement. [304831]

**Mr. Malik:** Arrangements for an extension to Councillor Byrom's appointment as Chair of the Business and Community Safety Forum are currently being finalised. The extension would mean Councillor Byrom continuing in the role of Chair until March while a review of the forum's effectiveness is undertaken.

### Council Housing: Finance

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much local authority housing debt has been removed following large-scale voluntary transfers since 1997. [304425]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Since 1997 the amount of local authority housing debt the Department has paid to the Public Works Loans Board following large scale voluntary transfers is £4.226 billion.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much historic housing debt remains a local authority responsibility. [304426]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman) on 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 519W.

Local authorities are responsible for all the housing related debt that they hold.

### Derelict Land

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the London Brownfield Sites Database; and whether he plans to extend the database across England. [304822]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The London Brownfield Sites database was launched on 8 October 2009 by the London Development Agency and the Homes and Communities Agency. The database is a freely available online tool. It is being used by all 33 London local planning authorities and other stakeholder groups including the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage. Visitors to the database website are able to identify sites suitable for development, and explore and understand a site's context due to the themed data made available. Data include transport routes, deprivation, social infrastructure, as well as heritage and natural environment assets. The Homes and Communities Agency is considering options for the development of similar systems in other English regions. As part of this process HCA will monitor the effectiveness of the London Brownfield sites database over the coming months.

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on establishing the National Brownfield Forum; and whether the forum will include non-governmental environmental organisations. [304826]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The first meeting of the National Brownfield Forum was held in February 2009. It has since met twice further. Membership of the forum is made up of both governmental and non-governmental organisations, including Environmental Protection UK, the Environmental Industries Commission and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.

### Disabled Facilities Grants

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent assessment he has made of the level of *(a)* demand and *(b)* funding available for disabled facilities grants in Somerset; and if he will make a statement; [303736]

(2) what his latest estimate is of disabled facilities grant allocations in each local authority in England as a percentage of assessed grant need in the latest year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [303744]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Communities and Local Government provided local authorities in Somerset with £1.7 million in 2009-10 towards their disabled facilities grant budgets.

The 2009-10 estimates on the disabled facilities grant allocations as a percentage of assessed need is available on Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/supportandadaptations/housingadaptations/localauthoritydfgallocations/

Local authorities are required to complete an annual claim and monitoring form to the Department for disabled facilities grants. This includes information on the level of contribution claimed from central government, levels of expenditure and levels of demand. The most recent data collection exercise, which has been expanded in 2009-10 to gather more information on levels of grant need, is nearly complete and we will be publishing the figures early in the new year.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has allocated for disabled facilities grants (DFG) in each local authority *(a)* per head of population, *(b)* per person of retirement age and *(c)* per person in receipt of disability living allowance and/or attendance allowance in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [303743]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Communities and Local Government provided £158 million in 2009-10 to support local authorities in their responsibilities to deliver disabled facilities grants. Funding has grown steadily from £57 million in 1997-98. That funding is allocated to local authorities using a formula which takes into account regional level data from the English House Condition Survey on the number of disabled people in each region living in unsuitable housing and a regional building cost index. For each local authority there is also a local needs indicator, based on the number of individuals in that authority in receipt of either disability living allowance or attendance allowance.

The levels of funding ranked by head of population, per person of retirement age and per person in receipt of disability living allowance and/or attendance allowance are not collected by Communities and Local Government.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken for the award of disabled facilities grants in each local authority in Somerset; and if he will make a statement. [303735]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Communities and Local Government does not collect information from local authorities on the average time taken for the award of disabled facilities grants. Responsibility for the management and delivery of the programme rests with local housing authorities.

### Eco-Towns: Biodiversity

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the proposals on protecting and enhancing biodiversity in eco-towns published by the Town and Country Planning Association on 1 December 2009. [304586]

**John Healey:** The biodiversity worksheet published by the Town and Country Planning Association on 1 December is part of a series of best practice worksheets to support those taking forward eco-town proposals. Like all the worksheets in the series it is advisory and not a statement of Government policy. All the worksheets have been produced with the input of a range of stakeholders, including from Government and agencies.

### Fire Services

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a business continuity assessment will be included in the comprehensive area assessment in respect of the fire and rescue service in the next assessment period; and if he will make a statement. [304782]

**Mr. Malik:** Effective contingency planning and emergency preparedness by authorities is a performance expectation set out within the Government's National Framework for the Fire and Rescue Service. An assessment of general preparedness in each fire and rescue authority has already taken place as a part of this year's comprehensive area assessment and will be publicly reported on 9 December on the new "oneplace" website.

Further assessment of specific business continuity preparedness will take place as a part of the next period of comprehensive area assessment.

### Fires

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to make a formal response to the ministerial submission of 2 April 2009 from the Business and Community Safety Forum on the fires in timber-framed constructions; and if he will make a statement. [304780]

**Mr. Malik:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department for Transport on 28 May 2009 to the joint ministerial submission from the Business and Community Safety Forum and Practitioners Forum. I have placed a copy of the reply in the Library.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chief Fire Officers Association, *(b)* the Health and Safety Executive, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* the Building Research Establishment on regulation of the construction of timber-framed buildings on construction sites; and if he will make a statement. [304781]

**Mr. Malik:** The implications for fire safety on timber framed construction sites was discussed at my meetings with the joint Business and Community Safety Forum and the Practitioners' Forum on 13 October and, in the light of the recent fire in Peckham, with the Chief Fire Officers Association Presidential Team on 1 December.

Officials are in regular contact with representatives from all these organisations on a wide range of issues, including fire safety on construction sites where timber-framed buildings are being erected. Most recently, officials met on 3 December with representatives from the fire service, local authority building control bodies, Association of Consultant Approved Inspectors and the Health and

Safety Executive to consider what use could be made of the statutory consultation process between Building Control bodies and the fire safety departments of local Fire and Rescue Services to aid their operational pre-planning.

## Housing

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of all households were in *(a)* private owner-occupied, *(b)* private rented and *(c)* social rented accommodation in each London local authority area in each of the last five years. [304516]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Figures are reported for dwellings and not households.

Local authorities report the number of private and total dwellings within their local authority area in their Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. There is no distinction between owner-occupiers and private renters. Table 1 provides the percentage of all dwellings that were privately owned.

Additionally, local authorities also report the number of dwellings owned by local authorities and registered social landlords in their local authority area. Table 2 provides the percentage of all dwellings, within the social sector.

Total dwellings also include other public sector dwellings and therefore figures in tables 1 and 2 will not add to 100 per cent.

*Table 1: Percentage of dwellings that are private housing within each London local authority, 2004-08*

| | *Private housing dwellings as a percentage of total dwellings* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *London local authority* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 66.3 | 66.7 | 67.5 | 67.8 | 67.8 |
| Barnet | 85.5 | 86.5 | 86.4 | 86.4 | 86.5 |
| Bexley | 86.6 | 86.0 | 87.4 | 86.8 | 86.6 |
| Brent | 75.1 | 75.2 | 75.7 | 76.0 | 76.1 |
| Bromley | 86.7 | 86.9 | 88.3 | 87.8 | 86.2 |
| Camden | 63.7 | 65.2 | 64.0 | 63.9 | 64.5 |
| City of London | 84.1 | 85.4 | 85.5 | 86.0 | 86.4 |
| Croydon | 83.1 | 83.3 | 83.3 | 83.1 | 83.0 |
| Ealing | 81.4 | 81.4 | 79.9 | 79.4 | 79.8 |
| Enfield | 83.6 | 84.0 | 84.3 | 84.1 | 84.1 |
| Greenwich | 62.0 | 63.5 | 64.5 | 64.3 | 64.9 |
| Hackney | 47.0 | 49.7 | 51.5 | 51.7 | 52.3 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 65.8 | 65.1 | 66.5 | 66.4 | 66.6 |
| Haringey | 71.4 | 71.6 | 70.2 | 69.3 | 72.1 |
| Harrow | 89.1 | 89.3 | 89.3 | 89.1 | 89.4 |
| Havering | 85.4 | 85.5 | 85.9 | 86.6 | 86.2 |
| Hillingdon | 82.3 | 82.4 | 82.2 | 82.2 | 82.1 |
| Hounslow | 77.1 | 77.4 | 78.1 | 78.5 | 77.8 |
| Islington | 53.1 | 54.4 | 55.7 | 57.2 | 58.6 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 77.7 | 78.1 | 77.5 | 77.5 | 77.8 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 88.3 | [illegible] | 88.5 | 88.7 | 88.6 |
| Lambeth | 58.8 | [illegible] | 59.5 | 61.5 | 62.9 |
| Lewisham | 66.7 | 68.2 | 68.5 | 68.5 | 68.5 |
| Merton | 85.5 | 85.5 | 86.2 | 86.4 | 86.2 |
| Newham | 66.5 | 67.5 | 69.4 | 68.3 | 68.5 |
| Redbridge | 89.5 | 90.9 | 90.5 | 89.7 | 89.7 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 88.3 | 87.7 | 87.9 | 88.2 | 88.0 |
| Southwark | 50.0 | 51.5 | 52.8 | 53.3 | 54.4 |
| Sutton | 84.0 | 85.3 | 84.7 | 84.8 | 84.2 |
| Tower Hamlets | 54.9 | 57.5 | 59.0 | 60.4 | 58.9 |
| Waltham Forest | 75.3 | 77.6 | 78.2 | 77.9 | 78.1 |
| Wandsworth | 77.6 | 78.1 | 78.1 | 79.2 | 79.1 |
| Westminster | 77.4 | 77.9 | 78.1 | 78.2 | 78.3 |
| Total | 74.6 | 75.3 | 75.6 | 75.7 | 75.8 |

*Source:*
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (section A)

*Table 2: Percentage of dwellings that are social housing within each London local authority, 2004-08*

| | *Social housing dwellings as a percentage of total dwellings* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *London local authority* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 33.7 | 33.3 | 32.5 | 32.2 | 32.2 |
| Barnet | 14.1 | 13.1 | 13.2 | 13.1 | 13.0 |
| Bexley | 13.4 | 14.0 | 12.6 | 13.2 | 13.4 |
| Brent | 22.7 | 22.7 | 22.2 | 23.9 | 23.8 |
| Bromley | 13.9 | 13.1 | 11.7 | 12.2 | 13.8 |
| Camden | 36.3 | 34.8 | 36.0 | 36.1 | 35.5 |
| City of London | 13.0 | 12.0 | 11.9 | 11.6 | 11.6 |
| Croydon | 16.8 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.9 | 16.9 |
| Ealing | 18.5 | 18.5 | 19.9 | 20.5 | 20.2 |
| Enfield | 16.3 | 16.0 | 15.6 | 15.8 | 15.8 |
| Greenwich | 37.3 | 35.9 | 34.8 | 35.1 | 34.5 |
| Hackney | 52.8 | 50.3 | 48.5 | 48.3 | 47.7 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 34.0 | 33.7 | 32.4 | 32.5 | 32.5 |
| Haringey | 28.5 | 28.3 | 29.8 | 30.7 | 27.9 |
| Harrow | 10.6 | 10.4 | 10.5 | 10.7 | 10.4 |
| Havering | 14.5 | 14.5 | 14.1 | 13.3 | 13.7 |
| Hillingdon | 16.8 | 16.7 | 16.6 | 16.5 | 16.6 |
| Hounslow | 22.7 | 22.4 | 21.7 | 21.4 | 22.0 |
| Islington | 46.8 | 45.6 | 44.3 | 42.8 | 41.3 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 22.3 | 21.9 | 22.5 | 22.5 | 22.2 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 11.7 | 11.6 | 11.5 | 11.3 | 11.4 |
| Lambeth | 40.9 | 40.1 | 40.2 | 38.3 | 36.9 |
| Lewisham | 32.6 | 31.1 | 30.8 | 30.8 | 30.8 |
| Merton | 14.4 | 14.3 | 13.7 | 13.6 | 13.8 |
| Newham | 33.2 | 32.1 | 30.5 | 31.4 | 31.2 |
| Redbridge | 9.2 | 9.0 | 9.4 | 10.3 | 10.2 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 11.3 | 11.9 | 11.9 | 11.6 | 11.8 |
| Southwark | 50.0 | 48.5 | 47.2 | 46.7 | 45.6 |
| Sutton | 16.0 | 14.7 | 15.3 | 15.2 | 15.8 |
| Tower Hamlets | 44.9 | 42.3 | 40.7 | 39.3 | 40.9 |
| Waltham Forest | 24.7 | 22.3 | 21.7 | 22.0 | 21.9 |
| Wandsworth | 22.1 | 21.6 | 21.6 | 20.5 | 20.6 |
| Westminster | 22.2 | 21.7 | 21.5 | 21.4 | 21.3 |
| Total | 25.1 | 24.4 | 24.1 | 24.1 | 24.0 |

*Source:*
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (Section A)

## Housing: Carbon Monoxide

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review the ventilation standards for vehicle garages attached to domestic properties with a view to reducing the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. [304115]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Ventilation standards for buildings are set in Part F of the Building Regulations (England and Wales), but the standards do not currently cover garages attached to dwellings.

The Department has recently consulted on proposed changes to Part F intended to ensure that health standards are not undermined by making buildings more airtight and hence energy efficient.

The consultation document did not contain any proposals to extend Part F ventilation requirements to domestic garages. However, we will consider any evidence of a need to do so as part of the next review of Part F standards starting in 2010.

## Housing: Prices

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average sale price of a home in a rural area was in each year since 1997. [305094]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The average sale price of a home in a rural area in England for each year since 1997 is presented in the following table:

| | *Rural local authorities (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 81,133 |
| 1998 | 88,290 |
| 1999 | 97,647 |
| 2000 | 109,879 |
| 2001 | 122,185 |
| 2002 | 143,579 |
| 2003 | 166,061 |
| 2004 | 189,029 |
| 2005 | 198,804 |
| 2006 | 211,470 |
| 2007 | 226,251 |
| 2008 | 221,659 |

Source:
Land Registry. Local authorities that are classed as rural under the DEFRA rural codes have been included and local authorities classed as Urban by DEFRA have been filtered out.

## Housing: Regeneration

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by each Pathfinder Partnership operating in the *(a)* North of England and *(b)* Midlands since the inception of that scheme. [302344]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins) on 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1503-04W.

## Local Government Finance: Bury

**Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding was allocated by his Department to Bury Metropolitan Borough Council in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 in respect of (i) revenue grant and (ii) specific grants; and what the percentage change was on the previous year in each case. [301920]

**Barbara Follett:** Formula Grant (which is made up of Revenue Support Grant, National Non-Domestic Rates and Principal Formula Police Grant) is the main revenue grant funding made to local authorities aside from those made for specific purposes by individual Departments. Formula Grant is distributed to local authorities by Communities and Local Government on behalf of central Government as a whole. The following table sets out the information requested.

| | *Prior year's adjusted formula grant¹ (£ million)* | *Formula grant (£ million)* | *Change¹ (£ million)* | *Change¹ (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 56.357 | 57.926 | 1.568 | 2.8 |
| 2008-09 | 61.118 | 63.103 | 1.985 | 3.2 |

¹ On a like for like basis taking account of changes such as, for example, finance or function.

The following table sets out the information on specific grants provided by this Department.

| *Grant* | *2007-08 (£ million)* | *2008-09 (£ million)* | *Change (£ million)* | *Change (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Planning Delivery¹ | 0.209 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Housing and Planning Delivery¹ | n/a | 0.102 | n/a | n/a |
| Homelessness | 0.329 | 0.329 | 0 | 0 |
| Supporting People | 6.653 | 6.611 | 0.042 | -0.63 |
| Supporting People Administration² | 0.100 | n/a | n/a | n/a |

¹ The Planning Delivery Grant was replaced by the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant in 2008-09.
² Supporting People Administration Grant was provided through Area Based Grant in 2008-09.

In addition to the funding set out, Area Based Grant (ABG) was introduced in April 2008. ABG is also paid by this Department on behalf of Government and comprises of a number of former specific revenue grants formerly provided by individual Government Departments. The allocation to Bury council in 2008-09 was £8.630 million, of which the Communities and Local Government element of funding was £0.732 million.

## Mortgages: Government Assistance

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeowners in rural areas have accepted an offer through the Mortgage Rescue scheme in each quarter since the launch of the scheme. [305038]

**John Healey:** We have acted rapidly to put in place a range of help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage, and launched a campaign to ensure households have clear information about the help available.

Mortgage Rescue Scheme summary monitoring statistics are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website. Figures can be assessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

Quarterly figures reported by local authorities from January to September 2009 are provided in a table which has been placed in the Library.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which constituencies his Department identified as suitable for its advertising campaign on the Mortgage Protection Scheme. [305125]

**John Healey:** The Department is not running an advertising campaign on the Mortgage Protection Scheme.

The Department is running an advertising campaign to encourage homeowners struggling with their mortgage payments to seek information on the wide range of help and advice open to them, and this campaign has not been defined by parliamentary constituency.

### Planning Permission: Ports

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has made an assessment of the merits of monitoring planning applications for marina developments. [303928]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** No assessment has been made of the merits of monitoring planning applications for marina developments.

### Planning Policy Statement 22

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the implementation of Planning Policy Statement 22 on the number of schools, charities and voluntary organisations which generate renewable energy. [304489]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Planning Policy Statement 22, supported by a companion guide, encourages regional planning bodies and local planning authorities to include policies in their development plans that support renewable energy developments. The climate change supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 gives a further boost to renewable energy development. A regulatory impact assessment was carried out to accompany PPS22. This did not identify any specific impacts on schools, charities or voluntary organisations.

### Sheltered Housing: Finance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on sheltered housing in *(a)* Lewes constituency, *(b)* the South East and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [302774]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Supporting People budget provides support to Sheltered Housing and is allocated to top tier local authorities. Data on spend are therefore not available at a district level.

The following table sets out the amount spent on sheltered housing or very sheltered housing through the Supporting People programme for East Sussex county council, the south-east region and England in the last five years where complete data are available.

| | *Sheltered housing* | *Very sheltered housing* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2007-08* | | | |
| South-east region | 23,965,794.26 | 4,372,908.12 | 28,338,702.38 |
| East Sussex | 1,665,175.64 | 343,308.39 | 2,008,484.03 |
| England | 175,760,689.66 | 30,973,895.07 | 206,734,584.72 |
| *2006-07* | | | |
| South-east region | 26,147,188.27 | 4,669,837.36 | 30,817,025.63 |
| East Sussex | 1,986,171.13 | 373,570.59 | 2,359,741.72 |
| England | 190,805,121.94 | 32,164,518.20 | 222,969,640.14 |
| *2005-06* | | | |
| South-east region | 26,318,939.31 | 4,315,921.77 | 30,634,861.08 |
| East Sussex | 2,035,349.34 | 336,967.47 | 2,372,316.81 |
| England | 193,952,236.41 | 33,738,063.33 | 227,690,299.74 |
| *2004-05* | | | |
| South-east region | 28,760,656.61 | 4,889,523.88 | 33,650,180.49 |
| East Sussex | 2,421,458.94 | 450,520.27 | 2,871,979.21 |
| England | 216,485,624.84 | 31,132,183.86 | 247,617,808.70 |

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each district council in East Sussex spent on sheltered housing in each of the last three years. [304279]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department for Communities and Local Government do not collect spend data on sheltered housing at district level.

### Sheltered Housing: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many sheltered housing tenants there are in Tamworth borough council area. [304160]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** There are 453 tenants in sheltered housing within the Tamworth borough.

### Social Landlords: Ethnic Groups

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* black and minority ethnic people and *(b)* women have served on the boards of registered social landlords in the last five years; how many (i) black and minority ethnic people and (ii) women have served (A) as chair of the board and (B) on the boards of the 50 largest registered social landlords in that period; what proportion of board membership each group represented in that period; and what remuneration the chair of each such board received in each year. [304401]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Government do not collect information pertaining to housing association board members remuneration. A table containing the remaining information requested is as follows. This includes information on housing association Chairs which cannot be disaggregated:

*Female and BME members of RSL governing bodies: 2005-09*

| | Total female governing body members | Total governing body members | Percentage female governing body members | Total BME governing body members | Total governing body members (excluding undisclosed/unknown ethnicity) | Percentage BME governing body members |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *All RSLs* | | | | | | |
| 2005 | 6872 | 17971 | 38.2 | 2189 | 17930 | 12.2 |
| 2006 | 6751 | 17320 | 39.0 | 2252 | 16868 | 13.3 |
| 2007 | 6626 | 17089 | 38.8 | 2197 | 16550 | 13.3 |
| 2008 | 6590 | 16685 | 39.5 | 2180 | 16316 | 13.4 |
| 2009 | 6244 | 15762 | 39.6 | 2051 | 15322 | 13.4 |
| *50 Largest RSLs* | | | | | | |
| 2005 | 192 | 604 | 31.8 | 98 | 598 | 16.3 |
| 2006 | 197 | 582 | 33.8 | 91 | 579 | 15.7 |
| 2007 | 196 | 596 | 32.9 | 92 | 560 | 16.6 |
| 2008 | 206 | 644 | 32.0 | 95 | 639 | 14.9 |
| 2009 | 198 | 561 | 35.3 | 94 | 563 | 16.7 |

Notes:
1. Data are reported as at 31 March each year
2. Largest 50 RSLs are calculated for each year based on the stock owned and/or managed
3. BME includes all ethnic groups apart from White British (i.e. White Irish and White Other are included in the definition)
Source:
Regulatory and Statistical Return part F

## Social Rented Housing: Standards

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on quality of management and level of property maintenance of rent reductions by registered social landlords in the last three years. [304450]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The guideline limits for registered social landlord rent increases under rent restructuring are taken from the previous September's retail price index (RPI) + 0.5 per cent. In addition to applying the guideline limit, RSLs can increase rents by up to an additional £2 per week in order to bring the actual rent charged closer to the target rent level.

The guideline limit in each of the last three years was as follows:

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | +5.5 |
| 2008-09 | +4.4 |
| 2007-08 | +4.1 |

The Government sponsors the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) to regulate RSLs in England in order to ensure that they are properly governed and that they provide decent homes and services for tenants.

## Sustainable Development

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with the Local Government Association on the progress of bids submitted under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [304336]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Officials have met with representatives from the Local Government Association, acting as Selector, on a number of occasions in order to co-operate with them as they draw up a shortlist of proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. The Selector Panel met on 23 October 2009, 11 November 2009 and 20 November 2009 to discuss which proposals should be included on the short-list. The decisions made by the Selector Panel at these meetings are available on the Local Government Association's website. I understand the Selector Panel is due to meet again on 22 December 2009 and is expected to submit the shortlist to the Secretary of State thereafter. The Secretary of State will then consult the Selector and try to reach agreement on which proposals should be implemented. Further discussions on the progress of proposals will take place as part of this process.

## Temporary Accommodation

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will rank local authorities in England by the numbers of tenants in temporary accommodation in each local authority area (*a*) on 2 December 2009, (*b*) in April 2009, (*c*) in 2008 and (*d*) in 2007; how many such tenants there were in each local authority area in each case; and if he will make a statement. [304770]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly "Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness", available both in the Library and via the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq22009

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available, and this information is also collected.

The number of households in temporary accommodation in each local authority at the end of each quarter is published in the supplementary table of the "Statutory Homelessness Statistical Release". The equivalent figures for previous years can be found in earlier additions of the Release, accessible from this link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationsabouthomelessness/

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies: Finance

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for each academy where the Government has agreed with sponsors to reduce capital funding contributions how much has been repaid from within the core budget in *(a)* each financial year to date, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* each year specified in a funding agreement. [304524]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]:* There are two types of sponsorship payments for academies: traditional procurement and the endowment model. It is for traditional procurement academies that sponsorship payments are a contribution to the capital cost of constructing academy buildings. The amount of cash sponsorship varies according to how many academies a particular sponsor has. The timing for the receipt of payments varies from academy to academy and is agreed as part of the Funding Agreement between the Department and the academy.

The following table lists the academies where we have paid additional costs in lieu of part of a sponsors' contribution. The table shows the total sponsorship pledged for each academy and the amount contributed to date. The contribution from sponsors is broken down into the amount that they have given and the additional costs that were initially paid by the Department and which have subsequently been recovered. The timescale for the recovery of additional costs is agreed individually for each academy.

*Academy sponsorship*

*£ million*

| | | | *Amount recovered by the Department and which counts towards the sponsor's contribution* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Academy* | *Total sponsorship pledged* | *Amount contributed by sponsor* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *Total amount recovered by the Department* | *Total confirmed capital contribution (contributed by sponsor and recovered by the Department)* |
| Barnsley[1] | 1.50 | 0.03 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.00 | 0.03 |
| Lambeth | 2.00 | 0.66 | 0.34 | 0.50 | 0.37 | — | — | 1.34 | 2.00 |
| Northampton | 2.00 | 0.65 | — | — | 0.29 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.99 | 1.65 |
| Paddington[1] | 1.50 | 0.43 | — | — | — | — | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.64 |
| Salford[1] | 1.60 | 0.21 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.00 | 0.21 |
| Stockport[1] | 1.50 | 0.20 | | | | | | 0.00 | 0.20 |
| William Hulme[1] | 0.95 | 0.00 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Manchester | 2.00 | 0.34 | | 0.95 | 0.14 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 1.47 | 1.81 |
| Bradford (Cathedral) | 1.00 | 0.00 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Enfield OASIS | 2.00 | 0.31 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.00 | 0.31 |
| Harefield Hillingdon | 1.50 | 0.70 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.00 | 0.70 |
| Harris Bermondsey | 1.50 | 0.49 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.00 | 0.49 |
| Harris South Norwood | 2.00 | 0.25 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.00 | 0.25 |
| Landau Forte (Derby) | 0.40 | 0.46 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.00 | 0.46 |
| Leicester Samworth | 2.44 | 2.06 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.00 | 2.06 |
| Macmillan | 1.25 | 0.45 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.00 | 0.45 |
| St. Francis of Assisi | 2.00 | 1.19 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.00 | 1.19 |
| The City Academy (Bristol) | 2.50 | 1.67 | | | | | | 0.00 | 1.67 |
| Westminster | 1.50 | 0.00 | — | — | 0.60 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 1.20 | 1.20 |

[1] For these multiple academy sponsors, who have already committed £2 million to a number of academy projects, the commitment is for the sponsor to use reasonable endeavours to raise funds.

Note:

All figures as at 2 December 2009

## Children: Day Care

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children attend *(a)* Sure Start facilities and *(b)* children's centres in Hampstead and Highgate constituency; and how much such facilities cost in the last 12 months for which information is available. [304128]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The first Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) were set up in 1999-2000. Sure Start Children's Centres were introduced from 2003-04. All former SSLPs have now become Sure Start Children's Centres.

Camden local authority has 17 Sure Start Children's Centres reaching a total of over 10,600 under fives and their families. Of these six children's centres are in the Hampstead and Highgate constituency reaching a total of around 3,500 under fives and their families.

The latest year for which we have an audited spend is 2007-08 for which Camden local authority spent a total of 6,267,295. The allocations for Sure Start Children's Centres revenue and capital are included within the wider Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant Main Revenue and Main Capital funding respectively. Funding in these blocks is not ring fenced and the authority has the freedom to decide how much to spend on each area supported by the grant, in line with local priorities.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* Sure Start centres and *(b)* children's centres have been opened in North East Lincolnshire since 1997; and what funding his Department has provided for such centres in that period. [304424]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The first Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) were set up in 1999-2000. Sure Start children's centres were introduced from 2003-04. All former SSLPs have now become Sure Start children's centres.

North East Lincolnshire local authority has 14 designated Sure Start children's centres reaching a total of over 9,800 under-fives and their families.

The total Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant provided to North East Lincolnshire local authority since 1997, for which information is available is around £54,719,000.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to Annex A of his Department's Annual Report 2009, pages 214-15, which programmes and allocations have been aggregated under the categories *(a)* Support for Youth and *(b)* Support for Children and Families. [300707]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Detail on the constituent parts of expenditure, aggregated in DCSF's departmental annual report 2009, are provided as follows for the year 2010-11.

*Departmental allocation*

£000

| *2010-11* | *Resource* | *DEL*<br>*Capital* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *(a) Support for Youth* | 5,868,757 | 240,500 | 6,109,257 |
| *of which* | | | |
| Educational qualifications | 199,570 | 500 | 200,070 |
| Support for Youth through Learning and Skills Council | 5,464,567 | 240,000 | 5,704,567 |
| Offender Education | 24,081 | — | 24,081 |
| Local Delivery; 14-19: Diploma Costs, Local Delivery and Attainment | 172,252 | — | 172,252 |
| Bridging allowances, community industry pensions and property disposal adjustment | 1,434 | — | 1,434 |
| Youth Task Force; Research, Communications and LA grants | 6,853 | — | 6,853 |
| | | | |
| *(b) Support for Children and Families* | 1,553,170 | 111,640 | 1,664,810 |
| *of which* | | | |
| Connexions | 24,143 | — | 24,143 |
| Other Support for Young People | 240 | — | 240 |
| Children and Families Programmes | 1,528,787 | 111,648 | 1,640,435 |

## Departmental Scientists

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [301928]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** This Department has one scientific adviser, our chief scientific adviser. There are no 'hard' scientific posts in the Department, although we have a large number of social science posts. At the end of October 2009, there were 218 specialists in social scientific disciplines (economics, statistics, social research and operational research) in the DCSF, including our chief scientific adviser. In addition, there are nine specialists in social scientific disciplines in the joint DCSF/DWP Child Poverty Unit. All of these specialists are civil servants.

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions he has met *(a)* the Government chief scientific adviser and *(b)* his Department's chief scientific adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303965]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Secretary of State has not had any meetings with *(a)* the Government chief scientific adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. And *(b)* the Department's chief scientific adviser has attended six meetings with the Secretary of State during this period.

## Families: Advisory Services

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria local authorities use to determine whether families should be referred to family group conferences. [304154]

**Dawn Primarolo:** It is for local authorities to determine what services to provide for families in their area and on what basis they should be offered in line with the relevant statutory framework. They will set their own criteria to determine whether families should be referred to a family group conference service (FGC). As part of their wider approach to supporting families to stay together, some local authorities have made it mandatory that an FGC is offered to the family before a child enters care or as soon as possible afterwards in the case of an emergency placement. Others have developed key trigger points within a local authority's involvement with a family where a decision about the child is required.

### GCSE: North East

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils *(a)* were persistent absentees and *(b)* obtained five GCSEs at grade A* to C including English and mathematics at each maintained secondary school in (i) Newcastle upon Tyne, (ii) the County of Northumberland and (iii) North Tyneside and Gateshead in (A) 2007 and (B) 2008. [302457]

**Mr. Coaker:** The main way school level information is published is in the Secondary School Achievement and Attainment Tables on the Department's website at the following links:

*2007*

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/schools 07.shtml

*2008*

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/schools 08.shtml

User-friendly Excel versions have also been placed in the House Libraries.

The 2009 Secondary School Achievement and Attainment Tables will be published in January 2010.

School level 'persistent absence' figures were first published in 2008. The 2007 tables give figures relating to 'unauthorised absence'.

### Gifted Children: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in North-East Milton Keynes constituency have participated in gifted and talented programmes in each year since 2000. [300715]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department does not collect data about participation in gifted and talented programmes. Through the School Census schools are asked to confirm the number of gifted and talented pupils they have identified. The following table provides data on how many children were identified as gifted and talented in the January census between 2006, when the question was first asked, and 2009.

2006 records include Secondary G and T pupil data only. Otherwise, figures include Primary[1] and Secondary[1, 2] school data broken down by the number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.

[3] Excludes dual enrolments.

| | 2006 (Secondary only) | | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *NE Milton Keynes* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| Primary | n/a | n/a | 170 | 1.9 | 610 | 6.2 | 600 | 6.1 |
| Secondary | [illegible] | 6.6 | [illegible] | 8.5 | 540 | 8.1 | 540 | 7.9 |

*Note:*

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

### Home Education

**Chloe Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children under the age of 16 years were being educated at home *(a)* at the latest date for which information is available and *(b)* in each year since 1997. [301887]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** We do not collect information centrally about the number of children under the age of 16 who are electively home educated because there is no current requirement for these children to be registered with local authorities. Graham Badman's 'Review of Elective Home Education in England', published in June 2009, estimated that there were around 20,000 home educated children and young people currently known to local authorities.

### KBR

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [303360]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Our financial records show that the Department has not made any payments to the company Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009 and we do not hold any contract information for this company on our central database.

### Pupils: Emotional Intelligence

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward proposals for the measurement of emotional intelligence of school pupils. [302034]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The DCSF currently offers schools, through the National Strategies, a Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme to help children and young people to manage themselves, their own emotions, their thoughts and their behaviours and develop positive relationships with each other. In addition, we jointly fund the National Healthy Schools programme with the Department of Health which requires schools to satisfy criteria across four themes in order to become a Healthy School.

Both programmes promote a 'whole school' approach to developing the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people through a shared vision, creating a positive ethos, strong relationships and inclusive leadership."

The DCSF has no proposals or plans to measure the emotional intelligence of school pupils.

### Schools

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the value for money of public funding for school-based learning about international development. [304431]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department has not made an assessment of the value for money of public funding for school-based learning about international development. But we know that international issues are important to young people and we are clear they should be covered in subjects such as geography, history and citizenship.

### Schools: Asbestos

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in how many schools in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point has asbestos been found in the last three years; [illegible]

(2) if he will publish Essex County Council's response to his Department's survey of the *(a)* presence and *(b)* management of asbestos in schools in Essex; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]*: The Department's survey asked for information on whether schools contain asbestos-containing materials. It also asked questions about asbestos management in local authorities and schools. The Department did receive a response from Essex county council but we are not in a position to publish any of the local authority responses as this information may be required for legal purposes. The Health and Safety Executive is planning follow up investigations in 2010 in a number of local authorities to clarify the information provided.

### Schools: Electricity

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what third-party approvals are required when electrical cables and wires are installed in newly-built school premises. [illegible]

**Mr. Coaker:** There is no legal requirement to obtain third-party approval of electrical wires and cables. However competent electrical consultants would specify the use of cables branded BASEC and approved by the British Approvals Service for Cables (BASEC).

### Schools: Finance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward proposals for the reform of the Dedicated School Grant to increase the amount disbursed to schools. [illegible]

**Mr. Coaker:** We launched a review of the Dedicated Schools Grant in January 2008 and it is now nearing its conclusion. For the first 18 months, up to July 2009, the Formula Review Group was gathering evidence on the main issues. Since July we have been developing options and it remains our intention to consult on proposals in the new year.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will increase his Department's expenditure on schools in Herefordshire. [304046]

**Mr. Coaker:** In November 2007, the Government announced the three year indicative education settlements for all local authorities in England from 2008-10 to 2010-11. The guaranteed funding per pupil for Herefordshire for 2009-10 is £3,830 and for 2010-11 it will be £4,002.

Levels of funding from 2011-12 onwards will be subject to future spending decisions.

### Schools: Standards

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools inspected since September 2009 were rated as inadequate; and if he will make a statement. [303724]

**Mr. Coaker:** Ofsted publish these data on a termly basis and this information will be available in January 2010.

### Secondary Education: Assessments

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in *(a)* year nine, *(b)* year 10 and *(c)* year 11 were entered for each accredited qualification in each subject in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [300697]

**Mr. Coaker:** This answer can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Special Educational Needs: Young Offenders

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of young offenders who have special educational needs; and what educational provision is available to such young offenders. [301633]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Research suggests that 15 per cent. of young offenders in custody have statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN). This is compared with 2.8 per cent. of the general school population.

The education providers in HM Prison Service Young Offenders Institutions (YOIs) are required to identify the special educational needs of young people and provide appropriate provision for them. The providers are contractually required to provide learning support in the classroom, as separate provision, or on a one-to-one basis as required. Providers are required to make available this additional support through both Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) and also Learning Support Assistants (LSAs).

Data provided to the Learning and Skills Council indicate that for the academic year August 2008 to July 2009, there were 2,932 referrals to SENCOs for 15 to 17-year-olds within Prison Service Young Offender Institutions.

The Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, which received Royal Assent on 12 November, contains new provisions to make local authorities responsible for education in youth custody. This includes new duties on local authorities to ensure that appropriate provision is made for young people with SEN. This will help ensure that young people in custody have access to comparable support to which they could expect in community settings.

### Specialist Schools: Lincolnshire

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what specialist schools have been established in North-East Lincolnshire since 1997. [304423]

**Mr. Coaker:** There are eight schools in North East Lincolnshire that have gained specialist status since 1997: Cambridge Park Maths and Computing College (Maths and Computing 2007), Healing School (Science 2004), Hereford Technology School (Technology 2004), Humberston Comprehensive School (Maths and Computing 2006), Matthew Humberstone Church of England School (Business and Enterprise 2003), St. Mary's Catholic School (Humanities and Language 2005), The Lindsey School and Community Arts College (Arts 2000), Tollbar Business and Enterprise College (Business and Enterprise and Humanities 2000)

There are also three academies in North East Lincolnshire. The Havelock Academy specialises in Maths, Computing and Engineering (2007). The Oasis Academy, Immingham specialises in Engineering with Business and Enterprise (2007) and the Oasis Academy, Wintringham specialises in Sports and Health with Business and Enterprise (2007).

The Western Technology College, in partnership with Hereford Technology School had specialist status from 2000 until 2004 until the partnership between the schools finished. The Western Technology College closed in August 2008 due to falling pupil numbers.

### Teachers: Lincolnshire

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* classroom assistants were employed in maintained schools in North East Lincolnshire (i) in 1997 and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available. [304427]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is published in tables 19 and 26 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'School Workforce In England (including local authority level figures) January 2009 (revised)' published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables19to27_Vals.xls

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Biofuels

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department has allocated for the purposes of developing biofuels since its establishment. [304057]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department for Transport has the overall remit for biofuels. It recently published a research and development strategy for biofuels that identified the current gaps in knowledge and the areas where Government could support greater scientific progress. DECC is working closely with the other Departments concerned, industry and academia to decide how best to take this forward.

DECC also sponsors the National Non Food Crops Centre (NNFCC), the UK's national centre for renewable fuels, materials and technologies, which is facilitating the establishment of sustainable supply chains for biofuels.

### Carbon Emissions

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his latest estimate is of the amount of UK carbon dioxide emissions *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding the impact of emissions trading in 2008. [303398]

**Joan Ruddock:** Provisional estimates of 2008 emissions were published on 26 March 2009. These figures estimate that:

UK emissions for carbon dioxide were 531.8 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (MtC02e)

including for the effect of the EU Emissions Trading System, UK carbon dioxide emissions in 2008 were estimated to be 511.4 MtC02e

The equivalent figures for all greenhouse gases are as follows:

excluding the EU Emissions Trading System = 623.8 MtC02e

including the EU Emissions Trading System - 603.4 MtC02e

The most recent final figures are for estimates of 2007 emissions. These were published on 3 February 2009. Estimates for only carbon dioxide emissions are:

excluding EU Emissions Trading System = 542.6 MtC02e

including EU Emissions Trading System = 516.9 MtC02e

It may be helpful to know emissions of all greenhouse gases. Again these are final 2007 figures:

excluding EU Emissions Trading System = 636.6 MtC02e

including EU Emissions Trading System = 611.0 MtC02e

### Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his latest estimate is of the gross revenue which will arise from the sale of allowances through the Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme before the recycling of such monies to scheme participants in each of the next five years. [303391]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department currently estimates that during the introductory phase of the CRC Energy Efficiency scheme, allowance sales could generate in the region of £650 million each year in 2011 and 2012. An integral aspect of the scheme is that this sum is returned to participants six months after the main allocation of allowances, making the scheme broadly revenue neutral to the Exchequer.

It is important to emphasise that these are preliminary estimates made using significant assumptions that will not be known with more certainty until after the start of the scheme. The main assumptions are an estimate of the quantity of emissions covered by the scheme and the uptake of energy efficiency measures within the sector. Until participants have registered for the scheme during April to September 2010 and reported their emissions in July 2011 we will not know the CRC emissions coverage accurately.

The sum likely to be raised from the auctioning of allowances during the capped phases of the scheme from 2013 onwards is yet more uncertain. Until the Government have taken a decision on the appropriate level of the cap, taking into account advice from the Committee on Climate Change it is not possible to estimate accurately the likely revenues from the five years of the first capped phase.

### Climate Change: International Co-operation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Minister for the Environment in the Northern Ireland Executive on the Copenhagen climate change summit; and if he will make a statement. [304047]

**Joan Ruddock:** I attended the joint ministerial committee on the European Union on 19 October, which focused mostly on Copenhagen. All devolved Administrations have representation on the committee.

The British-Irish Council met in Jersey on the 17 April 2009, and the international climate negotiations were on the agenda. Lord Hunt, Minister for Sustainable Development and Energy Innovation met with the Minister for the Environment in the Northern Ireland Executive, the hon. Member for East Antrim (Sammy Wilson), during the council.

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what account the Government's submission to the Copenhagen climate change summit will take of environmentally-friendly information and communications technology; [304142]

(2) whether the UK's submission to the Copenhagen climate change summit will include reference to the joint work on environmentally-friendly information and communications technology undertaken by the UN and the International Telecommunications Union. [304576]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]:* The UK Government will negotiate as part of the EU in Copenhagen and as such cannot make a direct submission to the UNFCCC. It is important that the deal in Copenhagen will support the development, transfer, deployment and diffusion of technologies for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries. The UK and the EU recognise the important role of public policies and finance in creating an enabling environment to redirect and scale up private investments in safe and sustainable low greenhouse-gas-emitting technologies; believe that support for technologies in developing countries should be based on assessments of country needs as reflected in their low-carbon development strategies; and argue that we should establish national and regional centres of technological excellence to promote technology development and transfer, stimulate capacity-building and improve access to information.

We welcome the work of the International Telecommunications Union and believe it provides useful evidence of how the telecoms sector plans to respond to the need to shift to a low carbon economy to limit the effects of climate change. We have recommended that a member of the UK delegation attends the ITU joint Copenhagen summit side event on the 10 of December, if time and scheduling permits.

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what officials from his Department will be attending the Copenhagen climate change summit. [304329]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]:* On current plans, two Ministers and 36 officials from the Department of Energy and Climate Change will be attending the Copenhagen climate change summit.

### Committee on Climate Change

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Committee on Climate Change is classified as *(a)* an executive agency and *(b)* a non-departmental public body. [305064]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Committee on Climate Change is a non-departmental public body.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301846]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change was created on 3 October 2008, and its official corporate website was launched on 23 February 2009:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/

This site received 288,094 page hits and 37,231 unique visitors from its inception up until 31 March 2009.

### Departmental Pay

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has allocated for *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses in 2009-10. [302779]

**Joan Ruddock:** Non-consolidated performance payments are an integral element of the reward package for staff. Non-consolidated performance pay has a number of key advantages:

it encourages continuous high attainment because the payments are dependent upon continuing strong performance;

it prevents a permanent rise in salary and an increase in pension on the basis of one off performances while still allowing good performance to be rewarded;

it has no long term costs, in particular it does not increase future pension payments.

it focuses the work of employees more directly on the priority goals of the organisation;

it motivates employees by linking an element of compensation to the achievement of departmental objectives rather than offering payment for time served; and

it targets money at those who make the biggest contribution.

The wages/salary budget for the Department of Energy and Climate Change for 2009-10 is expected to be in the region of £57 million. Non-consolidated annual performance payments may total an estimated 1.6 per cent. of the wages/salary budget while non consolidated special bonuses may total 0.4 per cent. of the wages/salary budget.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to his Department was of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302974]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department manages the cost of office facilities centrally as a departmental overhead and it is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown of costs for specific departmental functions.

## Energy Saving Trust: Advertising

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was spent on advertising through each medium by the Energy Saving Trust in each of the last five years. [303392]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Energy Saving Trust has spent the following on advertising through each medium over the period 2005-10.

| | *Amount (excl VAT) (£)* |
|---|---|
| *2009-10* | |
| TV | 1,174,669 |
| Radio | 254,588 |
| Online | 319,194 |
| Total | 1,748,451 |
| *2008-09* | |
| Press | 833,047 |
| Radio | 455,044 |
| Online | 988,713 |
| TV and event sponsorship | 119,700 |
| Total | 2,396,504 |
| *2007-08* | |
| Press | 1,352,510 |
| Online | 756,842 |
| TV and event sponsorship | 260,000 |
| Total | 2,369,352 |
| *2006-07* | |
| Press | 2,361,454 |
| Online | 800,799 |
| TV and event sponsorship | 375,000 |
| Total | 3,537,253 |
| *2005-06* | |
| TV | 2,083,491 |
| Press | 1,347,801 |
| Online | 399,911 |
| Total | 3,831,203 |

## Energy: Conservation

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much central Government funding has been spent on energy efficiency measures in *(a)* local authority, *(b)* housing association and *(c)* private homes in City of York local authority area in each year since 1996. [304507]

**Joan Ruddock:** Funding to encourage take-up of energy efficiency measures in Great Britain is available primarily through three schemes: the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, Warm Front, and the Decent Homes programme. However, only Warm Front and Decent Homes are funded from the public purse. Table A illustrates the investment made under Warm Front on measures to improve the energy efficiency of homes, by tenure, in the City of York since the scheme began in 2000.

Local authority and housing association homes are assisted through the Government-funded Decent Homes programme, as well as councils' own capital resources. Central Government has allocated City of York council £22.5 million for capital investment in their housing stock since 2001 through Decent Homes, as illustrated in Table B.

*Table A: Warm Front spend in the City of York by tenure*

| *Tenure* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Owner Occupied | 53,277 | 199,993 | 290,085 | 156,061 | 153,903 | 270,285 | 697,635 | 908,532 | 871,550 | 554,966 |
| Private Rented | 2,597 | 14,239 | 12,666 | 11,838 | 11,132 | 20,377 | 56,915 | 52,593 | 45,051 | 15,010 |
| Housing Association | 922 | 1,179 | 303 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Local Authority | 2,727 | 18,166 | 4,933 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

*Table B: Decent Homes expenditure in the City of York. Expenditure on capital works (installation, replacement or major repairs): York 2001-03*

*£000*

| | *Bathrooms* | *Central heating* | *Insulation* | *Windows* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 378 | 638 | 0 | 641 | 1,657 |
| 2002 | 335 | 480 | 23 | 1,282 | 2,120 |
| 2003 | 327 | 468 | 1 | 1,533 | 2,329 |

*Table B Decent Homes expenditure in the City of York. Expenditure on 'capital' works (installation, replacement or major repairs) York 2001-09*

|  |  |  |  |  | £000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | *Bathrooms* | *Central heating* | *Insulation* | *Windows* | *Total* |
| 2004 | 369 | 1,007 | 0 | 1,220 | 2,596 |
| 2005 | 470 | 995 | 3 | 769 | 2,237 |
| 2006 | 560 | 1,545 | 1 | 550 | 2,656 |
| 2007 | 530 | 2,797 | 0 | 71 | 3,398 |
| 2008 | 508 | 2,654 | 26 | 0 | 3,188 |
| 2009 | 501 | 1,496 | 21 | 267 | 2,285 |

*Source:*
Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

### Energy: Meters

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum premium being paid by customers using pre-payment meters for (i) gas and (ii) electricity compared to customers paying by direct debit. [303531]

**Mr. Kidney:** The most recent figures on tariffs are those for November 2009. The new rules outlawing undue price discrimination came into force on 1 September.

According to the latest available figures from Ofgem, prices for an average consumer using 3,300 kWh of electricity per year, indicate an average annual differential of £28 (pre-payment compared with direct debit) and a maximum differential of £60.

For an average consumer using 20,500 kWh of gas per year, November 2009 prices indicate an average annual differential of £49 and a maximum differential of £107.

Ofgem produces estimates of domestic household energy bills, and these reflect current prices as at November 2009. The maximum and average differentials given here mean the difference between direct debit and pre-payment tariffs available to consumers by a single supplier within one region.

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to amend the system of pricing for pre-payment fuel meter customers. [303644]

**Mr. Kidney:** E.ON, Npower, Scottish Power, EDF Energy and Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) have chosen to equalise their prepayment meter tariffs with standard credit for both gas and electricity. In addition, Centrica has equalised its electricity prepayment meter tariffs with standard credit.

New rules came into force on 1 September outlawing undue price discrimination and ensuring price differences between different payment methods for electricity and gas are cost reflective.

In their latest Quarterly Price Report, published 7 December 2009, Ofgem reported that tariff differentials for prepayment meter customers now, on average, reflect cost differences. This report can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/ensuppro/Documents1/Quarterly%20Wholesale%20Retail%20Price%20Report%20November%202009.pdf

### Energy: Prices

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of households in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales which defaulted on energy bill payments in the last 12 months. [304195]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]:* Neither Ofgem nor the Department collect data on numbers of households that have defaulted on their energy bill payments.

### Nuclear Power

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what work he is undertaking with the International Atomic Energy Agency to assist states to develop a civil nuclear energy industry while minimising the risk of nuclear weapons proliferating. [304471]

**Mr. Kidney:** The UK is a committed member of the IAEA and wants the Agency to maintain and strengthen its position at the centre of international efforts [illegible] ensure a safe and secure nuclear energy future. We are the fourth largest funder, make significant voluntary contribution to its Technical Cooperation and Nuclear Security Funds, and DECC leads work with the Agency on a variety of civil nuclear related matters.

Since 1981, the UK has provided a Support Programme (UKSP) to IAEA Safeguards. The UKSP has an annual budget of about £1 million and provides support, inter alia, with training of IAEA inspectors, analytical services and expert consultancy. Support to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund was doubled this year, up to £4 million. The UK also plays a key role in the IAEA's security work and the revision of the IAEA's recommendations for the physical protection of materials. DECC is also leading work on the UK-led Nuclear Fuel Assurance, one of several concepts being considered under an IAEA led initiative to provide states with an assured supply of nuclear fuel, and the Nuclear Centre of Excellence.

UK engagement with the IAEA is set out in the UK policy document "Road to 2010" (Cm 7675, published 16 July this year) - a detailed plan of action in the run up to the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in May 2010.

### Oil

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had on the *(a)* availability and *(b)* use of (i) oil sands and (ii) oil shale. [304051]

**Joan Ruddock:** I would draw attention to the Westminster Hall debate of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1-23WH, on biofuels. Statistics on the use of biodiesel made from oil seed are published by the Renewable Fuels Agency on their website:

http://www.renewablefuelsagency.org/reportsandpublications/rtforeports.cfm

Extraction of oil from shale in the UK began in Scotland in 1862 from limited oil shale deposits in West Lothian but has not been carried out now for some 40 years. However, in the last onshore licensing round in 2008, industry did show some interest in the potential surrounding shale gas in the UK. My Department has recently contracted the British Geological Survey to carry out a reassessment of potential oil and gas shale resources in the UK.

### Pay As You Save Scheme

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the first pilots of the new Pay As You Save scheme. [304469]

**Joan Ruddock:** Since the announcement of the pilots in the Low Carbon Transition Plan in July we have undertaken the detailed design of the pilots. The applications for delivery partners closed on 6 November.

The assessment process is now complete and the partners and corresponding locations for the pilots have recently been announced.

### Renewables Advisory Board: Finance

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Grey Clark) of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 436W, on the Renewables Advisory Board, on what date the Renewables Advisory Board budget for 2009-10 was finalised. [303505]

**Joan Ruddock:** The budget for the Renewables Advisor Board was finalised on 20 August 2009.

### Renewables Obligation

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effect on levels of competition of the cap on the number of renewables obligation certificates available for co-firing of regular biomass. [305178]

**Joan Ruddock:** We commissioned Oxera to look at the effects of the co-firing cap. Its report was published as part of the Renewables Energy Financial Incentives consultation and can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

We are currently drafting the Government Response addressing this issue.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account he took of the findings of the report prepared by Oxera for his Department in his decision not to remove the cap on the number of renewables obligation certificates available for the co-firing of regular biomass; and what the reasons were for his decision. [305179]

**Joan Ruddock:** We have consulted on whether to amend the co-firing cap as part of the Renewables Energy Financial Incentives consultation which closed on 15 October 2009. The Oxera Report was prepared for DECC as part of this consultation process. We are currently drafting our response.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with Ofgem on the effect on the level of contribution of biomass to the renewable energy targets of retaining the cap on the number of renewables obligation certificates available for the co-firing of regular biomass. [305180]

**Joan Ruddock:** In its response to the Renewables Energy Financial Incentives consultation, Ofgem expressed their concern that the cap constrains the contribution to our renewable energy targets from a relatively low-cost renewable technology. We are currently drafting the Government Response addressing these issues.

### Salix Finance: Loans

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much in loans has been granted by Salix Finance to *(a)* public sector and *(b)* private sector bodies in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [303390]

**Joan Ruddock:** Salix only works with public sector bodies. In each of the following years it has committed funds for energy saving projects to the value of:

| | *Funds committed (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 7.5 |
| 2008-09 | 11.2 |
| 2009-10 (to October 2009) | 30.0 |
| Total | 48.7 |

Salix is working with 259 public sector bodies, operating either long term recycling funds or providing 100 per cent. interest free project loans.

### Siemens

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Siemens or its subsidiaries since February 2009. [303764]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department has since February entered into one contract with Siemens Financial Services, a subsidiary of Siemens for the provision of photocopiers, to the value of £8,238.78.

### Warm Front Scheme: Kent

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding has been allocated for the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* Ashford constituency and *(b)* Kent in 2009-10; and what the average grant awarded under the Warm Front scheme was in Ashford constituency in each of the last three years. [304923]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department does not allocate funding by region, but has a set amount of funding to be used across England. However, total spend in this financial year stands at £227,322.45 in Ashford and £7,716,053.33 in Kent as at 4 December 2009.

The average grant awarded in the Ashford constituency in each of the last three complete years in shown in the following table.

| | *Average grant (£)* |
|---|---:|
| 2006-07 | 998.13 |
| 2007-08 | 1,021.36 |
| 2008-09 | 1,052.86 |

### Wind Power

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for how many on-shore wind turbines planning permission has been *(a)* sought and *(b)* granted in (i) England, (ii) North Yorkshire and (iii) the City of York since 1996; and how many turbines have been constructed in that period. [304508]

**Mr. Kidney:** The following table sets out the requested information for the reporting period since 1996:

*Number*

| | *England* | *North Yorkshire* | *City of York* |
|---|---:|---:|---:|
| Planning permission sought | 1,847 | 53 | 0 |
| Planning permission granted | 993 | 27 | 0 |
| Turbines constructed | 536 | 13 | 0 |

*Source:*
AEA Technology

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Adult Education: Student Numbers

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many 19 to 24 year olds are studying *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time on (i) first Level 2, (ii) first Level 3, (iii) subsequent Level 2 and (iv) subsequent Level 3 qualifications. [303307]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to him on 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 646W.

We do not hold data that show firstness by specific age-group or mode of attendance. Data showing participation on first full level 2 and first full level 3 qualifications are shown in a Statistical First Release (SFR), the next edition of which will be published on 17 December. The SFR can be found here:

www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09

### Apprentices

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of *(a)* level 2 and *(b)* level 3 apprenticeship (i) starts and (ii) completions were (A) men and (B) women in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [302586]

**Kevin Brennan:** Apprenticeship starts and achievements for 2003-04 to 2008-09 (provisional) were published in a statistical first release (SFR) on 22 October:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09

Supplementary Table 6 shows apprenticeship starts and framework achievements by gender for 2003-04 to 2008-09 (provisional). Table 1 shows starts and framework achievements by gender and level for 2008-09 (provisional).

*Table 1: Apprenticeship starts and achievements by gender and level, 2008-09 (provisional)*

| | | *Apprenticeship* | | *Advanced Apprenticeship* | | *Total* | |
|---|---|---:|---:|---:|---:|---:|---:|
| | *Gender* | *Number* | *Number* | *Number* | *Number* | *Number* | *Number* |
| *Starts* | Male | 76,700 | 49 | 40,700 | 52 | 117,400 | 50 |
| | Female | 78,600 | 51 | 38,000 | 48 | 116,600 | 50 |
| | Total | 155,300 | 100 | 78,700 | 100 | 234,000 | 100 |
| *Framework Achievements* | Male | 43,100 | 49 | 21,600 | 54 | 64,700 | 51 |
| | Female | 44,100 | 51 | 18,100 | 46 | 62,200 | 49 |
| | Total | 87,200 | 100 | 39,700 | 100 | 126,900 | 100 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred and may therefore not sum to totals.
2. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.
3. Apprenticeship starts and achievements for 2008-09 are provisional. Starts will rise by approximately 2-3 per cent. and achievements will rise by approximately 10 per cent. This revised information will be shown in the December 2009 SFR, and the accompanying supplementary tables.
4. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of starts/achievements at any point during the year. Learners starting/achieving more than one framework will appear more than once.
5. Higher Level Apprenticeships are included with Advanced Apprenticeships.

*Source:*
Individualised Learner Record

### Bankruptcy

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bankruptcies there have been in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* Lewes constituency in each of the last five years. [304275]

**Ian Lucas:** The available information for bankruptcies in England and Wales, Sussex and Lewes constituency between 2004 and 2008 can be seen in the following table. Information for 2009 is not currently available, as regional insolvency statistics are only compiled on an annual basis.

*Bankruptcies*

| | England and Wales | Sussex[1] | Lewes constituency[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 35,898 | 1,091 | 64 |
| 2005 | 47,291 | 1,443 | 84 |
| 2006 | 62,956 | 1,702 | 119 |
| 2007 | 64,480 | 1,952 | 111 |
| 2008 | 67,428 | 1,684 | 84 |

[1] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (increasing from 94.5 per cent. of cases in 2004 to 96.9 per cent. in 2008).

**Damian Green:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bankruptcies of individuals in each age group there have been in *(a)* Ashford and *(b)* Kent in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [304861]

**Ian Lucas:** The available information for bankruptcies in Ashford and Kent, in 2008 by age group, can be seen in Table 1. Information for 2009 is not currently available, as regional insolvency statistics are only compiled on an annual basis.

*Table 1: Bankruptcies in 2008*

| | Region[2] | |
|---|---|---|
| Age group[1] | Ashford | Kent |
| Under 25 | 4 | 80 |
| 25 to 34 | 23 | 396 |
| 35 to 44 | 34 | 468 |
| 45 to 54 | 22 | 365 |
| 55 to 64 | 19 | 187 |
| 65+ | 4 | 76 |
| Unknown | 9 | 108 |

[1] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid date of birth (93.4 per cent. in 2008).

[2] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (96.9 per cent. in 2008).

## Broadband

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of households in the UK *(a)* have broadband access and *(b)* have broadband of at least two Mbps. [301519]

**Mr. Timms:** Ofcom research indicates that over 99 per cent. of households are connected to a broadband enabled exchange and 65 per cent. of households in the UK subscribe to a fixed broadband connection. We estimate that today 89 per cent. of homes can readily get a 2Mbps (or higher) broadband service (as reported in the Digital Britain White Paper, June 2009).

## Broadband: Eastbourne

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of people resident in Eastbourne constituency who have access to a broadband internet connection; and whether he has made an estimate of the time required to make such access available to all such people. [303009]

**Mr. Timms:** This Department has not undertaken any estimates of the number of people in Eastbourne constituency who have access to a broadband internet connection. The Government's universal service commitment will ensure that homes across the UK have access to a line capable of delivering 2 Mbps by 2012. This should ensure that all homes in Eastbourne have access to broadband within three years, if they have not already.

## Caparo Group

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* the Secretary of State, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with Angad Paul in each of the last three years. [302868]

**Mr. McFadden:** My hon. Friend the then Minister for Trade, Investment and Consumer Affairs met Angad Paul on 17 September 2008. In addition, Angad Paul was on the business delegation that accompanied my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and my noble Friend the Secretary of State to the Gulf in November 2008; and also accompanied the then Minister for Trade and Investment on an earlier visit to Saudi Arabia in March 2008.

UKTI officials have had regular contact with Angad Paul over the past two years, particularly through his membership of the Saudi British Joint Business Council (SBJBC) and his involvement with the UK India Business Council, in addition to interactions with Caparo Group.

## Capita

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and his Department and its predecessors have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of such contracts since 1997. [303080]

**Mr. McFadden:** Information on cancelled contracts and contract penalties that may have been applied to existing contracts with the Department of Business, Innovations and Skills is not held centrally and the collation of such details could only be undertaken at disproportionate cost.

## City of London Guilds

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions the Secretary of State has met representatives of the City of London guilds in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [302559]

**Mr. McFadden:** My noble Friend the Secretary of State has had no meetings with City Of London Livery Companies as such but undoubtedly will have met numerous members of various Livery Companies at meetings and events in the course of his official duties.

## Departmental Art Works

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what changes there have been to artwork installed in *(a)* the Secretary of State's office, *(b)* offices of other Ministers and *(c)* elsewhere in his Department since 3 October 2008. [301640]

**Mr. McFadden:** Since 3 October 2008 there have been changes to works of art installed in the office of my noble Friend the Secretary of State, and the offices of my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Higher Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Regulatory Reform, my noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade and Investment and my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Postal Affairs and Employment Relations and the Department's Permanent Secretary and Professor John Beddington, the chief scientific adviser.

There has been no cost to the Department.

## Departmental Contracts

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria his Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303095]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills uses the "most economically advantageous tender" criteria in determining the award of contracts.

The Department does not record spend on the advertisement of tenders centrally, and such details could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Disclosure of Information

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301493]

**Mr. McFadden:** There have been less than five allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing reported by departmental staff since 6 June 2006. We are unable to release the specific number as to do so may lead to the identification of individuals.

Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the standards and core values set out in the "Civil Service Code". The "Civil Service Code" also provides for civil servants to raise matters of concern with the independent civil service commissioners if they do not receive what they consider to be a reasonable response following departmental internal procedures. The Commissioners will also consider taking a complaint direct. Further guidance on whistleblowing is set out in the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Directory of Civil Service Guidance".

## Departmental Industrial Health and Safety

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many courses relating to health and safety were funded by his Department in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [304559]

**Mr. McFadden:** Since the formation of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills in June, the Department's Health and Safety Team have organised the following courses:

First Aid training—nine courses (all for individual first aider training)

Fire Liaison Officer training—one course (12 staff attended)

## Departmental Pay

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 234W, on departmental pay, how many staff in his Department's predecessor departments received both an annual performance bonus and an in-year bonus in 2008-09; what the largest combined bonus payment to an individual was; and who was responsible for awarding such bonuses in each Department. [303364]

**Mr. McFadden:** BIS was formed through a MOG change that occurred in June. The Department was created by merging the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). In response to the question the answers for each of the former Departments are included in the following table:

| *Department* | *Number of people that received both an annual and "in year" performance award* | *The proportion of staff that received both an annual and "in year" performance award (percentage)* | *The largest total amount awarded to an individual staff member that received both an annual and "in year" performance award (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| BERR | 367 | 10.58 | 7,885 |
| DIUS | 8 | 0.90 | 2,150 |

Who is responsible for awarding bonuses?

*Annual Awards*

Within both former Departments annual performance awards are given to staff that receive an annual performance rating of "Highly Successful". The performance ratings are given through an appraisal process that takes place between the staff member and their line manager through the course of the year.

*In year performance awards*

In year performance awards are in place to reward exceptional performance over a short period of time that might not be fully reflected in a staff appraisal report and annual pay awards. The following applies within the former Departments.

***BERR***

The Director General has the final responsibility for authorising any special awards within their group.

*DIUS*

The process for making "in year" awards is managed at group level with staff being assessed by panels consisting of staff from all grades against criteria set out in the DIUS values.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301543]

**Mr. McFadden:** In the last 12 months BIS and its predecessors have undertaken 14 external recruitment campaigns. Nine of these were undertaken by the former Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). Of the 14, only one recruitment campaign requested online only applications. This was a generic campaign for vacancies across former BERR: 25 at Grade 7 and 25 at HEO level. No specific arrangements were made for those without access to the internet and nor were any requested by potential applicants.

There were no recruitment campaigns undertaken in the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) that requested online only applications.

### Departmental Taxis

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessors travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302712]

**Mr. McFadden:** Ministers would generally make use of Government cars. Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code. The Department does not hold separate records of the travel journeys undertaken by Ministers as opposed to those undertaken by officials, to provide this information would entail disproportionate costs.

Mileage travelled during taxi journeys is not recorded and details are therefore unavailable.

Taxi spend incurred by officials (including those in DIUS) in UK and overseas travel is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 342,929 |
| 2005-06 | 396,667 |
| 2006-07 | 349,079 |
| 2007-08 | 329,642 |
| 2008-09 | 411,471 |

Earlier spend details have not been retained and are therefore unavailable.

### Dieticians

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many undergraduate degrees in dietetics that entitle the holder to practise as a fully qualified were awarded in each of the last 10 years. [303778]

**Mr. Lammy:** Information on undergraduate degrees awarded in dietetics is not available and the numbers of first degree qualifiers in Nutrition are given as an alternative in the table. Nutrition is classified as a principal subject in the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record and includes courses in nutrition and dietetics.

It is not known whether these courses are accredited and entitle the degree holder to practise as a fully qualified dietician.

Figures are provided for the academic years 2002/03 to 2007/08, as subject data prior to 2002/03 are not directly comparable.

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available from HESA in January.

*First degree qualifiers[1] in Nutrition UK higher education institutions[2], academic years 2002/03 to 2007/08*

| Academic Year | *Qualifiers* |
|---|---|
| 2002/03 | 490 |
| 2003/04 | 540 |
| 2004/05 | 595 |
| 2005/06 | 615 |
| 2006/07 | 745 |
| 2007/08 | 970 |

[1] Includes Qualifiers from full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Figures exclude the Open University due inconsistencies in their coding of subjects across the time series.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency

### Driving

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which (i) his Department and (ii) one of its Executive agencies is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) his Department and (B) one of its executive agencies have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302169]

**Mr. McFadden:** The driver of a car being used for business purposes is advised that his responsibilities are as follows:

you have a current driving licence, which covers the vehicle being driven

you have suitable insurance allowing for business use of the vehicle

the car has a current MOT, and is roadworthy

you allow adequate time for journeys (including time for breaks on long journeys)

you follow all advice, guidance and legislation relating to road safety—you will have to pay any fines incurred as a result of any driving offence

you drive with consideration for the safety of passengers and other road users.

Staff are required to report accidents on business travel to line management, which would be investigated if considered appropriate to do so.

I have approached the chief executives of the Department's agencies and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 8 December 2009:*

The Minister of State, for the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive (a) a vehicle for which (i) his Department and (ii) one of its executive agencies is responsible have valid driving licences and (b) their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) his Department and (B) one of its executive agency have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated.

For the purposes of travel on official Insolvency Service business in a vehicle for which the Service is responsible, it is the responsibility of line managers to ensure that staff hold a valid driving licence.

For travel on official Service business in a privately owned motor vehicle, the staff guidance advises that the owner of the vehicle should ensure that the driver holds a current driving licence for the vehicle. Regarding insurance, the use of a private motor vehicle must satisfy certain insurance conditions. It is the employee's personal responsibility to ensure that these conditions are fulfilled. Staff must declare that they know and understand the insurance requirements, and that they are covered accordingly.

There is no specific guidance regarding road safety but staff are advised that they must ensure that the private vehicle they drive has a current MOT and is in roadworthy condition. The monitoring of compliance with guidance is the responsibility of local line managers, and is not checked centrally.

Staff are required to report any motor vehicle accidents to their line-manager. Line managers must ensure that all accidents, incidents and near-miss events falling within their area of responsibility are reported and appropriately investigated, and remedies put in place to prevent re-occurrence. Near misses are not recorded unless they have resulted in some type of injury or distress to the individual that warrants recording under the above scheme.

*Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 27 November 2009:*

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 24 November 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

The Intellectual Property Office, an executive agency of BIS, requires staff who drive their own vehicle during the course of their duties to sign a declaration which confirms they have valid insurance.

Hire cars are covered by Crown indemnity. Line managers are expected to check driving licences annually to ensure compliance with the requirements. If a hire vehicle is involved in an accident staff are required to notify the hire company and the line manager and full details of the incident submitted to the HR department.

In respect of road safety we do not issue separate guidance; we expect staff to behave responsibly in all aspects of their official duties. It is made clear that the Office will not reimburse or accept any fines or penalties for motoring offences.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 8 December 2009:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 24 November 2009, UIN 302169, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has a Health and Safety Driving at Work Policy covering all the issues raised in your question. It is available if you wish to see it.

*Letter from Peter Mason, dated 26 November 2009:*

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 24 November 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Where a vehicle was used for official business National Measurement Office staff must declare, on each claim made, that a valid driving licence is held by the driver and that no endorsements were pending that could result in a ban. If relevant to the claim, the declaration also covers that the vehicle used has a current MOT and is in roadworthy condition. Managers are required to confirm that the claimant's driving licence and, where relevant, motor insurance policy and MOT are reviewed for validity for official business use.

The National Measurement Office has issued staff guidance for driving for work. Drivers must report any accidents, in which they were involved, when on official business. Guidance covers the actions that staff must undertake in such circumstances. Staff must complete an accident form within 24 hours of any such accident. The content of this form is then considered under normal health and safety procedures.

## Export Credits Guarantee Department

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions the Export Credits Guarantee Department has reported allegations of bribery and corruption to *(a)* the Serious Fraud Office and *(b)* other agencies in each of the last five years. [303812]

**Ian Lucas:** Since January 2004, ECGD has reported five matters to NCIS or the SFO.

## Exports: Munitions

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 644-45W, on exports: white phosphorus, which licences for exports to each country of destination were for munitions controlled in the *(a)* ML3a or *(b)* ML4a category. [304709]

**Ian Lucas:** As previously stated, although the Export Control Organisation within BIS has identified 67 licences for munitions designed to create illumination or act as an incendiary we are unable to categorically identify which, if any, of these licences are for munitions that contain white phosphorous. However, the breakdown of licences issued for each destination which were for munitions in the ML3a, ML4a, or both categories are as follows:

| *Country* | *Total licences with ML3a* | *Total licences with ML4a* | *Total licences with both ML3a and ML4a* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Abu Dhabi (part of United Arab Emirates) | — | 2 | — |
| Afghanistan | 1 | 1 | — |
| Australia | — | 2 | — |
| Bermuda | — | 1 | 1 |
| Brazil | — | 1 | 1 |
| Brunei | — | 3 | — |
| Canada | 1 | 1 | — |
| Cyprus | — | 1 | — |

| *Country* | *Total licences with ML3a* | *Total licences with ML4a* | *Total licences with both ML3a and ML4a* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Denmark | — | 1 | |
| Estonia | — | 1 | |
| Germany | — | 2 | — |
| Greenland | — | 1 | — |
| Honduras | — | 1 | — |
| Hong Kong Special Administrative Region | — | 1 | — |
| India | — | 1 | — |
| Iraq | — | 5 | 1 |
| Irish Republic | — | 2 | — |
| Israel | — | 1 | — |
| Italy | 1 | — | — |
| Jordan | — | — | 1 |
| South Korea | — | 2 | — |
| Kuwait | 1 | 1 | — |
| Latvia | — | 1 | — |
| Lithuania | — | 1 | — |
| New Zealand | — | 3 | — |
| Norway | — | 1 | — |
| Pakistan | — | 3 | — |
| Saudi Arabia | — | 5 | 1 |
| Sierra Leone | — | — | 1 |
| Singapore | — | 3 | — |
| Sri Lanka | — | 2 | — |
| Thailand | — | 7 | — |

## Further Education

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which further education colleges the Secretary of State has visited since his appointment. [303172]

**Kevin Brennan:** My noble Friend the Secretary of State has visited Westminster Kingsway College since the creation of BIS. He has met with a number of other college principals and representatives over the course of his departmental business, including giving the keynote speech at the Association of Colleges annual conference on 19 November.

## Further Education: Standards

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many further education colleges were deemed to be *(a)* outstanding, *(b)* good, *(c)* satisfactory and *(d)* failing by Ofsted in the last 12 months. [303168]

**Kevin Brennan:** The annual report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2008-09 was published on 24 November. The data in this report show that there were a total of 89 further education colleges inspected in 2008-09. Of these: 18 were judged to be outstanding; 38 were judged to be good; 29 were judged to be satisfactory; and four were judged to be inadequate.

## Higher Education: International Co-operation

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1723W, on higher education: international co-operation, what funding his Department plans to make available for the joint activities identified in the report of the US/UK study group on higher education and collaboration in a global context. [303380]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department remains committed to supporting engagement between higher education institutions in the United Kingdom and the United States but there are currently no plans to invest further funding following publication of the US/UK Study Group report.

## Higher Education: Overseas Students

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from outside the EU have entered higher education programmes from further education institutions since 1997. [303338]

**Mr. Lammy:** The information is shown in the table.

*Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in the UK Non EU overseas students who submitted their application from a UK address*

| | *Year of entry* | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Centre through which their application was submitted* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| Art design and performing arts | 137 | 154 | 156 | 171 | 220 | 120 | 118 | 95 | 110 | 83 | 63 | 24 |
| Further education | 797 | 471 | 472 | 462 | 861 | 1432 | 1863 | 1817 | 1467 | 1325 | 1350 | 1632 |
| Sixth form centre/college | 143 | 141 | 175 | 173 | 214 | 258 | 331 | 365 | 331 | 286 | 219 | 240 |
| Total | 1077 | 766 | 803 | 806 | 1295 | 1810 | 2312 | 2277 | 1908 | 1694 | 1632 | 1896 |

*Source:*
UCAS
Non EU applicants who submitted their application from a UK address are those who had a correspondence address in the UK with a valid postcode The centre identified is that through which the application was received, though the applicant may not be studying at that centre (at the time of application)

## Housing: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with the Department of Energy and Climate Change on the proposed Standard Assessment Procedure grid carbon dioxide methodology. [302139]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department has had no discussions with the Department for Energy and Climate Change on the proposed Standard Assessment Procedure grid carbon dioxide methodology.

## Iraq

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants from his Department are based in *(a)* Basra, *(b)* Baghdad and *(c)* other locations in Iraq. [304371]

**Ian Lucas:** UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has four permanent positions in Baghdad, consisting of one UK based officer and three locally engaged staff, and one permanent position in Basra filled by a locally engaged member of staff.

### London Metropolitan University: Finance

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the KPMG Report to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) reviewing lessons learned from the London Metropolitan University case, *(a)* whether (i) KMPG, (ii) HEFCE and (iii) his Department has seen in full the BDO Stoy Hayward review of London Metropolitan University's approach to student records and the level of accuracy of its student-data completions; *(b)* how much money has been (A) repaid to HEFCE by the university and (B) withheld by HEFCE from the university in relation to the matter and (C) whether the Secretary of State has been informed of active or dormant legal restraints on making public (1) the BDO Stoy Hayward review and (2) the redacted parts of the KPMG review. [303384]

**Mr. Lammy:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* (i) I understand that KPMG was made aware of the key elements of the BDO report during their investigation of HEFCE's handling of the London Metropolitan case.

(ii) HEFCE commissioned and saw the report in full.

(iii) HEFCE sent a redacted version of the report to me and one of my officials on 24 July 2009, 24 hours ahead of its first release in response to a request under freedom of information legislation. It has not been shared more widely within my Department.

*(b)* In general, funding is repaid by institutions to HEFCE by HEFCE withholding funds from its grant payments to them. HEFCE has agreed a repayment profile with London Metropolitan for the sum of £36.5 million running from July 2009 to July 2014. So far, £682,892 has been withheld by HEFCE from London metropolitan's grant payments.

*(c)* I and my officials were made aware of the restraints to the publication of the BDO report and the reasons for the redactions to the KPMG report.

### Lord Sugar

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions the Secretary of State has met Lord Sugar on official business in each of the last six months. [304163]

**Mr. McFadden:** My noble friend the Secretary of State had an introductory meeting with Lord Sugar on 8 July and has met him subsequently in the course of a number of other official meetings and events.

### Medical Devices

**Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will make an assessment of the effect on the level of *(a)* employment, *(b)* private investment in research and development and *(c)* revenue of UK-based life sciences companies of changes to the reimbursement policy for medical devices in other European countries due to come into effect in January 2010; [303779]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to assist UK-based life sciences companies affected by changes to the reimbursement policy for medical devices in other European countries due to come into effect in January 2010. [303780]

**Mr. Lammy:** There are currently no plans to i) make an assessment of the effect, or ii) take specific action to support, the UK Life Science sector in relation to changes to reimbursement policy in other European countries.

BIS however is committed to helping British firms who are facing unjustified barriers to operating in other EU markets. The main tool the Department has for tackling such barriers is SOLVIT. This is a pan-European network which was set up specifically as a free service to help EU citizens and businesses solve problems that arise from the incorrect application of EU law by national administrations. Companies that suspect that they may be facing such barriers should contact the UK SOLVIT centre at:

solvit@bis.gov.uk

### Minimum Wage

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency who would have earned a wage lower than the level of the national minimum wage if the national minimum wage had not been in existence in each year since its introduction. [302992]

**Mr. McFadden:** Annual estimates for the number of employees who benefit from the national minimum wage (NMW) annual upratings between 1999 and 2009 are provided in table 1 and the notes. The information relates to those who benefited because they earned an hourly wage less than national minimum wage (NMW) rates prior to the uprating. It does not represent the number of individuals who would have earned a lower wage in the absence of the NMW uprating.

Full information is provided for the UK and partial information for England and the north-east. Information is not available at constituency level.

*(a)* Table 1 shows the estimated number of employees benefiting from the NMW in the UK.

*Table 1: Job holders benefiting from the annual October increases in the national minimum wage*

| | Number (million) |
|---|---|
| 1999[1] | 1 |
| 2001[2] | 1.3 |
| 2003 | 0.9 |
| 2004 | 1.1 |
| 2005 | 0.9 |
| 2006 | 1.2 |
| 2007 | 0.9 |
| 2008 | 1.0 |

*Table 1: Job holders benefiting from the annual October increases in the national minimum wage*

| | Number (million) |
|---|---|
| 2009[3] | 1.0 |

[1] Figures for 1999, take earnings inflation into account, those earning between £3.50 and £2.90 in spring 1998 would benefit from the NMW introduction in April 1999.

[2] Figures for 2001, take earnings inflation into account, those earning beneath £3.40/£4.00 and £3.50/£4.10 in spring 2001 would benefit from the October 2001 increase.

[3] Figures between 2003 and 2009 take into account earnings inflation.

*Source:*

BIS estimates using Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and Annual Earnings Index (AEI); Office for National Statistics

*(b)* Using the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2008 data, BIS estimate that within England 770,000 employees were earning an hourly wage less than the October 2009 NMW rates. This estimate will be revised in December 2009 using the latest ASHE 2009 data and will be published in the 'Government Evidence to the Low Pay Commission on the Economic Effects of the NMW' December 2009 report.

*(c)* Using ASHE 2008 data, BIS estimate that within the north-east region 60,000 employees were earning an hourly wage less than the October 2009 NMW rates. This estimate will be revised in December 2009 using the latest ASHE 2009 data and will be published in the 'Government Evidence to the Low Pay Commission on the Economic eEfects of the NMW' December 2009 report.

*(d)* Robust estimates for employees earning an hourly wage less than a forthcoming NMW rate are not available at the constituency level because of small sample sizes in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE).

## NESTA

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what payments the National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts has made to Consolidated PR in each of the last three years; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made; [302300]

(2) how much public funding the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) has received in each year since its establishment; how many in-house *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations staff NESTA employs; and how much NESTA has spent on externally provided (i) public affairs and (ii) public relations services in the last three years. [302406]

**Mr. Lammy:** In 2007/08 the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) contracted with the Central Office of Information (COI) for services when the NESTA communications team was not fully staffed and significant initiatives required communications support. Consolidated PR was chosen by COI to undertake the work and was paid £138,794. In 2008/09, NESTA engaged Consolidated PR directly and paid £17,832 for provision of the same type of services. NESTA made no payments to Consolidated PR in 2006/07. Contracts relating to these arrangements are a matter for the parties concerned.

NESTA is funded by an endowment from the National Lottery rather than grant in aid funding from its sponsor Department, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. NESTA was established in 1998 with an original endowment of £200 million from the National Lottery. In February 2003, £50 million was added to the endowment, and £45 million was received by NESTA for new initiatives, again from the National Lottery. In February 2006, NESTA secured an additional £75 million of endowment funding from the National Lottery to be paid over five years, £15 million pa from 2005/06 to 2009/10. The value of the endowment at 31 March 2009 was £326 million.

NESTA employs two public affairs staff and three public relations staff. In the last three years, NESTA spent nothing on externally provided public affairs services. NESTA spent £58,033 in 2006/07, £148,395 in 2007/08 and £52,482 in 2008/09 on externally provided public relations services.

## Pipex Homecall: Complaints

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints from consumers Ofcom *(a)* received and *(b)* upheld relating to Pipex Homecall and its related companies in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [304595]

**Mr. Timms:** The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executives letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## Risk and Regulation Advisory Council: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which external public relations firms the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council has hired since its inception; at what cost; and for what purposes. [302232]

**Ian Lucas:** The following expenditure figures cover contracts with external public relations firms for the period from the inception of the RRAC in January 2008 to November 2009. These figures include expenditure from the budget of the unit responsible for raising awareness of the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council work and tools.

Bell Design and Communications Ltd. to provide benefits capture, design and delivery of launch event and publication design: £87,324.

Compass Rose and Co. to provide public relations consultancy services: £53,000.

## Royal Mail: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments Royal Mail has made to *(a)* Grayling Political Strategy and *(b)* Positif Politics Ltd in each of the last three years; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [302306]

**Mr. McFadden:** The use of consultants by Royal Mail is a matter for the company. I have, therefore, asked the chief executive of Royal Mail to provide you with a reply to your question.

I will place a copy of his reply in the Library.

### Saif al-Islam Gaddafi

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates the Secretary of State has met Saif al-Islam Gaddafi since his appointment; who attended each such meeting; what the location was of each such meeting; and what matters were discussed at each such meeting. [303369]

**Mr. McFadden:** I refer the hon. Member for Harwich to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorkshire) (Mr. Hague) on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2077W.

### Train to Gain Programme

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which Train to Gain providers have had discussions with Ministers on the funding and contract arrangements for Train to Gain for 2009-10. [302503]

**Kevin Brennan:** I meet regularly with the representative bodies of both further education (FE) colleges and private training institutions; including the Association of Colleges and the Association of Learning Providers. I am the chair of a regular Further Education and Skills standing group. I also visit FE colleges and training institutions, which provides further opportunities for discussion.

Funding and contract arrangements for learners aged 19 or over on FE and skills provision, including Train to Gain, are administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The LSC has established and maintains a close and collaborative working relationship with individual FE colleges and training institutions and will be in regular direct contact with them on a variety of issues.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints have been received by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Learning and Skills Council from Train to Gain providers about the funding and contract arrangements for Train to Gain for 2009-10. [302504]

**Kevin Brennan:** I receive a wide range of correspondence in relation to my departmental responsibilities. This includes correspondence from further education colleges and training institutions sent via their Member of Parliament and from key stakeholders and representative bodies such as the Association of Colleges or the Association of Learning Providers. Due to the large volume of correspondence received, it is not possible to separately identify where a specific complaint has been made about a particular funding arrangement from a particular class of correspondent.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for the operation of funding and contract arrangements for adult learning including Train to Gain. They receive a similarly diverse range of correspondence. Any formal complaints they receive are handled through a defined complaints procedure detailed on their website and are targeted for resolution within three months. The LSC is not aware of having received any complaints through this route about Train to Gain funding and contract arrangements for 2009-10.

### Unemployment: Young People

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of people aged between 16 and 24 years old were not in education, employment or training in the third quarter of each of the last 10 years. [302573]

**Kevin Brennan:** The table gives the number and percentage of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the third quarter of each year from 2000 to 2009.

These estimates are from the Labour Force Survey and will include pregnant mothers, those caring for children or relatives, people with a disability or suffering from ill health, and those waiting for a course or job to start, including those on a gap year.

*People aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training in England*

| | Number | Percentage of all 16 to 24-year-olds |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 749,000 | 14.5 |
| 2001 | 766,000 | 14.6 |
| 2002 | 785,000 | 14.8 |
| 2003 | 815,000 | 14.9 |
| 2004 | 829,000 | 14.9 |
| 2005 | 877,000 | 15.2 |
| 2006 | 970,000 | 16.6 |
| 2007 | 909,000 | 15.4 |
| 2008 | 973,000 | 16.2 |
| 2009 | 1,082,000 | 18.0 |

[1] Age is based on academic age, which is defined as the age of the respondent at the preceding 31 August

*Source:*

Quarter 3 Labour Force Survey

It must be noted that a direct comparison between consecutive quarters cannot be made as quarterly NEET estimates from the LFS display a strong seasonal pattern. Estimates for quarter 3 are always considerably higher than in quarter 4 because of the number of young people who are either between courses or who have recently left education.

Estimates for every quarter since 2005 have been produced by the Department for Children Schools and Families and are available here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000890/NEETQtrBriefQ32009.pdf

### Union Learning Fund: Finance

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department allocated in respect of union learning representatives in the last 12 months; and how many such posts in his Department were full-time. [304548]

**Mr. McFadden:** BIS have two union learning representatives who are allocated up to 4.5 days per year for this activity alongside their other duties.

### Union Modernisation Fund

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1756W, on the Union Modernisation Fund, if he will publish in full the rules on conflicts of interest. [302290]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Members of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board are selected by open competition in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies (OCPA). As part of that appointments process, applicants must give details of potential conflicts of interest.

All appointment letters set out the Nolan Principles of Public Life Board Members must declare any personal or business interests which may, or may be perceived to, influence their judgements in performing their functions.

Copies of the OCPA code and Nolan Principles are available in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1756W, on the Union Modernisation Fund, when he expects the final evaluation report of the Modernisation Fund to be published. [302291]

**Mr. McFadden:** A copy of the final evaluation report of the first round of the Union Modernisation Fund produced by the Department in conjunction with Leeds University Business School was published in October on the Department's website. Copies were placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 21—July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1756W, on the Union Modernisation Fund, if he will publish the declarations of past and present political activity made by each of the members of the supervisory board to date. [302293]

**Mr. McFadden:** At the time of their appointment, the members of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board declared the following interests:

Sir Bill Connor (Chair) declared that he had spoken on behalf of a party or candidate and canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at election (for the Labour party);

Adrian Askew declared that he had held office such as Chair, Treasurer or Secretary of a local branch of a party and canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at election (for the Labour party);

William Brown declared no political activity;

Danny Carrigan declared that he had canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at election and a member of the National Executive Committee (for the Labour party);

Jeannie Drake declared that she had canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at election and a member of the Labour Party National Policy Forum (for the Labour party);

Bruce Warman declared no political activity;

Professor David Gordon declared

"I am a member of the Cooperative Party which aims to foster the agenda and activities of the Cooperative movement in the UK. The Cooperative Party is affiliated to the Labour Party and also supports the Woodcraft Folk which is a youth movement/club which my daughter attends;"

David Lebrecht declared no political activity.

### Vocational Training

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on support for traditional skill sets in remote island economies in the UK. [302571]

**Kevin Brennan:** Skills policy in England focuses on equipping the workforce with the skills needed to compete in a global marketplace and enable people and their families to live happier, healthier, more successful lives.

Government recognise the importance of traditional skills sets. Securing the right skills provision and attracting a new generation into these industries is key to preserving our heritage. Working across Government Departments and through English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund, we want to ensure that our heritage is cared for, protected and enhanced for current and future generations to enjoy.

Many of the UK's remote islands are not part of England. Skills policy in the UK is devolved and as such policy for those islands are a matter for the Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly and Northern Ireland Assembly.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 9 December 2009*

## WALES

### Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305385]

**Mr. Hain:** 28 named day questions were received within the last 12 months, 25 were answered on the specified date.

## OLYMPICS

### Siemens

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the Government Olympic Executive has entered into any contracts with Siemens or its subsidiaries since February 2009. [304259]

**Tessa Jowell:** Neither the Government Olympic Executive nor the Olympic Delivery Authority have entered into any contracts with Siemens or its subsidiaries.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Civil Service Compensation Scheme

10. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent representations she has received on proposed changes to the Civil Service Compensation scheme; and if she will make a statement. [304990]

**Angela E. Smith:** On 31 July we published our proposals to reform the Civil Service Compensation scheme. Correspondence has been received from over 200 Members and the Cabinet Office has received over 18,000 emails and letters in response to the consultation. Officials have had numerous meetings with the civil service unions since July 2008, and Ministers met the unions on 22 September to listen to their views. In the light of representations significant changes which provide better outcomes for the lowest paid civil servants, while still delivering the savings committed to. Overall, the new package—announced last Friday—provides fairer outcomes to civil servants and to taxpayers.

### Third Sector

**Anne Moffat:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what work with the third sector her Department is undertaking to encourage the creation of jobs. [304992]

**Angela E. Smith:** Latest figures show levels of employment in the third sector have been sustained throughout 2008-09, with over 500,000 employees—a significant achievement in light of the recession. We are committed to creating a further 25,000 jobs in the third sector through involvement in public services. The Cabinet Office is working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to support third sector involvement in the creation of 150,000 jobs through the Future Jobs Fund.

### Charities: Regulation

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps the Government are taking to reduce the burden of regulation on charities. [304988]

**Angela E. Smith:** The changes we have made to charity law and accounting and reporting thresholds have resulted in savings for up to 50,000 charities and up to £5 million per year. The new Charitable Incorporated Organisation, planned for next year, will give charities the advantages of incorporation without the burden of dual regulation by both the Charity Commission and Companies House. Departments are also cutting red tape for third sector organisations and will be reporting on further progress later this month. The Government and National Audit Office (NAO) have produced guidance to reduce red tape associated with the £12 billion a year the sector gets from Government. The Government have introduced further measures to facilitate the use of Gift Aid, with particular support for smaller charities, including reforms to simplify the record keeping and auditing process.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agency has spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [303842]

**Angela E. Smith:** Since 2006, the Cabinet Office has predominantly used an on-line e-card at no cost to the Department. The cost of any Christmas cards sent by the Department is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. No departmental funds have been used for staff Christmas parties.

Christmas trees are situated at certain points on the Cabinet Office estate, such as in the reception of the main buildings. The cost which includes the purchase, decoration and environmentally friendly disposal of the trees in 2008 was £5,757.

### Civil Servants: Hearing Impaired

**Mr. Borrow:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information her Department holds on the number of employees of each Government Department who incurred hearing loss in the course of their duties in each year since 1999. [304011]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Cabinet Office does not hold this information.

### Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many security passes her Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303953]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Cabinet Office takes great care regarding access to its buildings and its access control policies are in line with the HMG Security Policy Framework, Mandatory Requirements 56, 57 and 58

The Department issues security passes to all those who are visiting and have business on its estate. Non-staff employed by the Department (including temporary staff, short-term work placements, contractors and consultants) may be issued with either a temporary pass, an escorted visitor pass or an unescorted visitor pass, depending on the length of time they are working for the Department and their level of security clearance.

Separately identifying those who may be visiting the Department to provide consultancy services from those who are visiting for other reasons could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

### Freedom of Information

**John Hemming:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will bring forward proposals to ensure that public bodies which enter into partnership to provide services are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [305046]

**Mr. Wills:** I have been asked to reply as the Minister responsible for Freedom of Information policy.

On 16 July 2009, the Government published the response to their consultation on extending the Freedom of Information Act by means of a section 5 order. It noted that they were not minded to include in an initial order companies providing, under a contract made with a public authority, any service whose provision is a function of that, authority. However, the Government have made clear that they intend to keep the extension of the Act under review.

### Scientists

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions she has met the Government chief scientific adviser in the course of her official duties in the last 12 months. [304731]

**Ms Butler:** No current Cabinet Office Minister has met with the Government chief scientific adviser within the last 12 months.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Equality and Human Rights Commission: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what payments the Equality and Human Rights Commission has made to *(a)* Postif Politics and *(b)* APCO Worldwide in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305157]

**Maria Eagle:** The Equality and Human Rights Commission has not made any payments to *(a)* Postif Politics and *(b)* APCO Worldwide in the last 12 months.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305376]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The number of named day parliamentary questions tabled for answer by the Department for International Development (DFID) and answered on the day named is provided in the table.

| *Month* | *Number of named day questions tabled* | *Number of answered on the day named* |
|---|---|---|
| December 2008 | 4 | 4 |
| January 2009 | 16 | 15 |
| February 2009 | 16 | 16 |
| March 2009 | 54 | 52 |
| April 2009 | 15 | 14 |
| May 2009 | 10 | 9 |
| June 2009 | 17 | 16 |
| July 2009 | 16 | 15 |
| August 2009 | 0 | 0 |
| September 2009 | 10 | 9 |
| October 2009 | 24 | 19 |
| November 2009 | 24 | 22 |

### Palestinians: Education

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to seek to ensure adequate education provision for children in Gaza. [304766]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) supports both the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to provide education in Gaza.

Our budget support to the PA was £50 million in 2008 and £18.5 million so far in 2009. This funding contributes to the salaries of public sector workers, including teachers and the provision of basic services such as education. Approximately 50 per cent. of PA spending goes to Gaza.

UNRWA schools in Gaza are attended by over 200,000 children. Through our core funding to UNRWA, DFID has contributed £100 million over five years (2007 to 2012) towards teacher salaries.

DFID continues to press Israel to allow reconstruction materials into Gaza so that schools destroyed and damaged in Operation Cast Lead can be repaired, and to lift all restrictions on the imports of stationery, textbooks and school furniture.

### Palestinians: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to provide medical assistance to those in refugee camps in Gaza. [304763]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Medical assistance to Palestinian refugees in Gaza and elsewhere in the region is the responsibility of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The Department for International Development is providing £100 million to UNRWA in core funding over five years (2007-12) which the Agency can allocate to areas of most urgent need: this year we gave UNRWA nearly £20 million. About 5 per cent. of UNRWA's overall budget is allocated to healthcare in Gaza.

### South East Asia: Tuberculosis

**Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contacts his Department has with governments of South East Asia in respect of the delivery of national tuberculosis programmes. [304767]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) contributes to tuberculosis (TB) control through a variety of channels including support for national programmes, multi donor initiatives and research.

In China, DFID has provided £28 million to the National TB Control Programme. This programme has increased national case detection rates from 30 per cent. in 2000 to over 70 per cent. in 2007 in 16 provinces, covering half of China's population. Furthermore 1.8 million patients have successfully been treated and cure rates are now well above 85 per cent.

DFID will provide £30.1 million by 2011 to the multi-donor funded Three Diseases Fund (3DF) which aims to tackle TB, malaria and HIV/AIDS. The 3DF provides grants to UN agencies and NGOs to support delivery of the National TB Strategy in Burma. DFID is also the donor representative on the Country Coordinating Mechanism which oversees the implementation of the National TB Strategy in Burma.

### Sri Lanka

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of Tamils released from camps in Sri Lanka in December 2009. [304765]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Government of Sri Lanka announced that freedom of movement would be allowed for all the remaining displaced people held in camps by 1 December 2009. Since this date figures for the number of people returning to their home areas have been changing rapidly and are hard to follow accurately on a day by day basis. However at the end of last week, the United Nations estimated that more than 150,000 people had returned to their home areas.

### Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department plans to provide to Tamils released from camps in Sri Lanka in December 2009; and with which international charities his Department plans to work to provide such assistance. [304764]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has already provided considerable support to returning displaced people since September, including de-mining programmes, transport, shelter materials, water and sanitation, and seeds for restarting agricultural activities. Future support will be determined on the basis of the evolving situation on the ground and taken forward with the most appropriate delivery partners.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Armed Conflict

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's estimate is of the population of *(a)* Britain's area of responsibility in Helmand province and *(b)* each district in Helmand province. [304353]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We estimate the population of Britain's area of responsibility in Helmand province to be 750,000 to 800,000. According to 2003 Central Statistical Office/UN Population Fund Socio-Economic and Demographic Profile, the estimated population of each district in Helmand are:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Baghran | 129,947 |
| Dishu | 29,005 |
| Garmsir | 107,153 |
| Gereshk/Nahr-e Saraj | 166,827 |
| Kajaki | 119,023 |
| Khanashin | 17,333 |
| Lashkar Gah | 201,546 |
| Musa Qal'eh | 138,896 |
| Nad-e Ali | 235,590 |
| Nawa | 89,814 |
| Nawzad | 108,258 |
| Sangin | 66,901 |
| Washir | 31,476 |

### Afghanistan: Politics and Government

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had discussions with their Afghan counterparts on a national unity Government in Afghanistan. [304720]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** In the run up to and following Afghanistan's 2009 presidential elections, we met with a range of presidential candidates and continue to encourage all parties to work together for the good of Afghanistan. It is not for the UK to dictate to Afghanistan's political leadership the makeup of any future Government, or prescribe the degree to which the Afghan Government should formally work with its opposition. What is important is that with UK and international community support, the Afghan Government and other key Afghan partners reach out across the political spectrum in order to deliver progress on the key issues President Karzai outlined in his inauguration speech: security, governance, peace and reintegration, economic development and regional relations.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-6, on Afghanistan and Pakistan, what proposals the Government have brought forward on stronger international civilian leadership in Afghanistan; and when he expects such proposals to be agreed with international partners. [304933]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Following President Karzai's inauguration speech on 19 November 2009 and President Obama's statement on 1 December 2009, the international community are reinvigorating their efforts to deliver and co-ordinate coherent and effective support for the Government of Afghanistan and its people. Work is progressing on a number of fronts. NATO Foreign Ministers discussed Afghanistan on 3 and 4 December 2009 and a NATO force generation conference on 7 December 2009 focused on increasing the Allied military effort. It is important that this enhanced International Security Assistance Force military effort is matched by a stronger, more-effective civil effort. We are discussing with our international partners how best to achieve this. The London Conference will offer a timely focus to taking forward international agreement on delivering a more coherent civilian effort.

## Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made a recent estimate of the *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect contribution of his Department and its staff to the economy of Afghanistan. [305469]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The effort in Afghanistan is cross-departmental, with the bulk of the UK's efforts supporting the economy coming from the Department for International Development (DFID). However, one of the greatest needs for the Afghan economy is stability. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) efforts across Afghanistan and wider region, supporting stability will therefore have the greatest indirect impact on the Afghan economy, although it is not possible to measure this contribution.

There are a number of projects, procurement and salaries in the local economy which have a direct impact on the local economy. Local purchases amounted to £6.8 million in 2008, much of which will have fed directly back to the Afghan economy. Local staff salaries were an additional £549,000. Spending in 2009 is likely to be similar. In addition, the FCO supports numerous programmes which support activity in Afghanistan. This financial year (2009-10) the total budget for non-DFID civilian programmes in Afghanistan is £88.4 million. Of this, it is predicted that £54.1 million is administered with the promotion of economic development and welfare—officially Overseas Development Authority—spend. This does not include DFID spending.

## Aminatou Haidar

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his Moroccan counterpart the deportation of Aminatou Haidar, with particular reference to Article 12(4) of the International Convention on Civil and Human Rights. [304261]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Officials from our embassy in Rabat, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and the United Kingdom's Mission to the United Nations have discussed the case of Aminatou Haidar with the Moroccan authorities. Article 12(4) of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights has not been raised during these discussions. We have however made it clear that we believe the issue should be resolved swiftly and fairly.

We have also made it clear to the Moroccan authorities that recent events risk impeding the UN-led negotiation process. The UK remains fully committed to this process, and will continue to support the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Christopher Ross, in his efforts to bring the parties together to find a mutually acceptable political agreement that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

## British Indian Ocean Territory: Environment Protection

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* historic and *(b)* other entitlements affect his Department's ability to enforce the proposed new Chagos Archipelago Marine Protected Area. [302472]

**Chris Bryant:** No decision has yet been taken on whether a Marine Protected Area will be established in the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). A decision will be taken following the public consultation which is at present underway.

The UK is responsible for enforcing protection of the BIOT Fisheries and Conservation Management Zone/Environmental Preservation and Protection Zone and this would also be the case for any proposed Marine Protected Area. Surveillance and monitoring of the fisheries is, at present, carried out by a Senior Fisheries Protection Officer based on board the BIOT Patrol Vessel—the Pacific Marlin, and the Marine Resources Assessment Group's monitoring centre in London.

## Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [303599]

**Chris Bryant:** The White Book, published by the Central Office of Information (COI) every six months, contains details of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's press team in London.

## Ilois: Resettlement

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what research his Department is undertaking on the viability of the proposed return of the Chagos Islanders to the archipelago; and if he will make a statement. [305190]

**Chris Bryant:** Following the Law Lords judgment of 22 October 2008 in the Judicial Review of the 2004 British Indian Ocean Territory Orders in Council, Government policy remains that no-one has a right of abode in the Territory or the right to enter the Territory unless authorised. The Government have no plans to resettle the Chagos Islanders in the Territory and is not therefore undertaking research on the viability of the return of the Chagos Islanders to the British Indian Ocean Territory.

### India: Religious Freedom

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Indian counterpart on measures to enable displaced Christians in Orissa province to return to their homes. [303117]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed this with his Indian counterpart. On 10-11 November 2009 our High Commissioner to India visited Orissa and enquired with the local state authorities, including the Chief Minister, about the status of Christians still affected by the violence in Orissa in 2008, living conditions, compensation and the prosecution of those responsible. The local authorities advised that the state run camps had been closed, affected Christians had now returned to their homes, compensation had been provided and perpetrators had been convicted. However, resettlement of those displaced and the reconstruction of churches was still ongoing.

### Israel: Prisoners

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the detention by the Israeli authorities of Mohammed Othman from Jayyous; and whether he has made representations to the Government of Israel on the subject. [304705]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We are concerned by Mr. Othman's treatment and long detention without charge. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister of State, Ivan Lewis, raised UK concerns over Othman's case with the deputy Israeli Foreign Minister, Danny Ayalon on 27 October 2009. Our embassy in Tel Aviv, and our consulate-general in Jerusalem, continue to follow his case closely.

More generally, we continue to monitor the situation with regard to all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. We are very concerned about cases of administrative detention: we call on the Israeli Government to take immediate action to ensure that all cases are reviewed by a court in accordance with fair procedures, and that detainees' rights are upheld.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of Israel's compliance with its obligations under article 23 of the Fourth Geneva Convention in respect of free passage into Gaza of consignments of *(a)* medical and hospital objects, *(b)* food and *(c)* clothing. [304882]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government have made clear their view that in light of the control that Israel continues to exercise over Gaza, Israel remains bound by obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 in respect of Gaza. Those obligations include article 23 of that convention. We are deeply concerned about the situation in Gaza and continue, bilaterally and with our EU partners, to urge Israel to allow reconstruction and humanitarian supplies into Gaza.

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Israeli Government on the payment of compensation to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East following the shelling of its compound in Gaza City in January 2009. [304909]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government were deeply concerned by reports of incidents involving UN property/personnel during the Gaza conflict. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon set up the UN Board of Inquiry to investigate certain incidents involving UN property/personnel during the Gaza Conflict. The Board reported back on 5 May.

The UN Secretariat are taking this forward—including the issue of compensation—directly with the Israeli Government.

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government has made to the Israeli Government on the alleged shelling with high explosive and white phosphorus munitions of the United Nations compound in Gaza on 15 January 2009. [304910]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Our embassy in Tel Aviv raised concerns over this incident directly with the Israeli Government on the day it took place.

We have been clear from the beginning of the Gaza conflict that all allegations of breaches of international humanitarian law committed by both sides must be properly investigated.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon set up the UN Board of Inquiry to investigate certain incidents involving UN property/personnel during the Gaza Conflict. The Board reported back on 5 May 2009. The UN Secretariat are now taking this forward with the Israeli Government.

### Morocco: Mining

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 228W, on Morocco: mining, what recent steps the Government have taken to seek to ensure that Morocco fulfils its obligations under international law to ensure that the extraction and exploitation of phosphates do not adversely affect the interests of the people of Western Sahara. [304262]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer of my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 32W.

The UK continues to maintain its position that Morocco, as the de facto administering power of Western Sahara, is obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities under administration—including the extraction and exportation of phosphates—do not adversely affect the interests of the people in Western Sahara.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Moroccan Government on *(a)* ending the movement of members of the Moroccan civilian population into the occupied Western Sahara and *(b)* the application of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention until the status of Western Sahara is determined. [304414]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer of my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 47W, Western Sahara: Politics and Government:

> We have not discussed the movement of population between Morocco and Western Sahara, or the application of article 49 of the fourth Geneva convention, and have no current plans to discuss either matter with the Moroccan Government.
>
> The Government see the status of Western Sahara as undetermined and continue to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute, providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. To this end the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, Christopher Ross.

### Proliferation: Nuclear Weapons

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to prepare for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. [304465]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government have led international efforts to re-energise the consensus underpinning the non-proliferation treaty over the last three years. There are clear indications that the international mood is changing.

Building on the "Road to 2010" policy document launched by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in July 2009, and available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/roadto2010.aspx

The Government will continue to work hard with nuclear weapon states partners and the great mainstream of the non-aligned movement to build critical momentum and ensure a successful review conference next May.

### Religious Freedom

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions each UK mission has raised the question of persecution or discrimination in relation to *(a)* the Christian faith, *(b)* the Islamic faith, *(c)* Judaism, *(d)* Sikhism, *(e)* Hinduism, *(f)* Buddhism and *(g)* other religious faiths in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [304445]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK condemns all instances of persecution and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief, wherever they occur and whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned.

All the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) overseas missions have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights in their host countries. Our embassies raise freedom of religion or belief in a variety of different contexts. We take action on individual cases where persecution or discrimination has occurred; lobby for changes in discriminatory practices and laws; raise freedom of religion or belief in bilateral and EU human rights dialogues; and work in the UN and other international organisations to uphold universal standards. The FCO does not keep statistics on our lobbying on religious persecution or indeed on broader human rights issues.

### Sudan: Politics and Government

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Sudanese Government and *(b)* the UN on the peacekeeping patrols in Darfur being blocked; and if he will make a statement. [304679]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We regularly discuss UN peacekeeping in Darfur with the UN, the Government of Sudan and other parties in Darfur, emphasising the importance of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid operation (UNAMID) in Darfur being able to exercise its full mandate in accordance with the Statement of Forces Agreement. On 30 November 2009 the UN Security Council reiterated its full support for UNAMID and emphasised the need for all parties in Darfur to unconditionally guarantee full access to UNAMID patrols in Darfur. On 12 November 2009 we participated in a demarche setting out to the UN and African Union our strong concern at the Government of Sudan's non-compliance with the Status of Forces Agreement and urging them to take all necessary measures to ensure that Sudan complies with its terms.

### Taliban

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of the Taliban's income which derives from the illicit trade in opium. [303037]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released the report Addiction, Crime and Insurgency: The Transnational Threat of Afghan Opium on 21 October 2009. In it the UNODC estimates that the Taliban in Afghanistan now derive between $90-160 million per year from taxing opium production. There are no accurate assessments of what proportion of the Taliban's income comes from the drugs trade. However, the UK assesses that the opium trade represents a significant proportion of the Taliban's income.

### USA: Anti-semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of incidents of anti-Semitism in the US; whether he has had recent discussions with the US Administration on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [305306]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have not received any recent reports of anti-Semitism in the US. For a more detailed explanation of ongoing discussions between the UK and US on the issue of anti-Semitism, I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 3 December 2009, in which I said that we continue to work closely with the US Administration and other partners to combat anti-Semitism wherever it occurs.

### Western Sahara: Human Rights

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1969W, on Western Sahara: human rights, whether the matter of human rights abuses in the Non-Self Governing Territory of Western Sahara related to calls for a referendum was raised with Morocco by EU officials in the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democratisation and Governance on 24 July 2009. [304417]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The EU and Morocco held positive and open discussions in the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democratisation and Governance on 24 July 2009. A wide range of human rights-related issues were discussed, including women's rights, freedom of expression and the rights of detainees. Whilst there was no discussion relating specifically to the issue of Western Sahara, Morocco has a responsibility towards the people living there and therefore the discussions that took place did not exclude Western Sahara.

The UK and European partners regularly engage in discussions with the Moroccan authorities on issues related to human rights and Western Sahara, and raise individual cases where appropriate.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are to implement the Afghan Public Protection Programme in Helmand province. [304169]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

We are fully aware of the Afghan Public Protection Force project being piloted in Wardak province with the help of the US. We welcome the principle of empowering individual communities to take a greater role in providing their own security. We will remain in close contact with the Afghan Government and the US on its progress and look forward to discussing the results of this pilot with them in due course. Only once the pilot has been rigorously evaluated will any decisions on expansion, including to Helmand, be taken.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of armed forces personnel who deploy to Helmand province equipped with a cricket box for groin protection; and if he will make a statement. [304726]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** All of the protective personal equipment provided to armed forces personnel is constantly under review. The Osprey body armour systems have long been considered to be among the best in the world, and the survival rates are testimony to that; however, a direct by-product of that is that personnel are now surviving with other associated and sometimes life-changing injuries. We are continually seeking ways to further protect our personnel, and work is well under way to research ways of providing additional protection including for the whole groin area.

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department paid for Jet A1 and diesel fuel delivered to Camp Bastion in support of UK operations in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; [304745]

(2) what the average monthly cost to his Department was of Jet A1 and diesel fuel delivered to Camp Bastion in support of UK operations since 2005. [304746]

**Mr. Quentin Davies** [*holding answer 7 December 2009*]: Fuel for both Bastion and Kandahar Airbase is paid for from the same budget. During the last 12 calendar months £85,669,000 was paid for aviation fuel; and £43,058,000 for ground fuel for both locations. Based upon information from FY 2008-09 onwards the average monthly cost of aviation fuel was £6,070,000; and £2,891,000 for ground fuel for both Bastion and Kandahar Airbase. The information for fuel costs prior to FY 2008-09 is not held centrally.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Department is taking to enable mail and postal services provided for armed forces personnel in Afghanistan to manage the volume of letters and parcels expected over the Christmas period. [305343]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Over the Christmas period, the British Forces Post Office (BFPO) employs extra staff to ensure that all HM Forces mail to all world-wide destinations including Afghanistan is dispatched promptly.

The Enduring Free Mail Service which operates all year round is bolstered by the Christmas Free Mail Service (CFMS) for one month before Christmas, where the Free Post is extended to cover not only Operations and their supporting ships, but all destinations where HM Forces are deployed.

The CFMS is advertised along with Last Dates of Posting via a Defence Information Notice and the BFPO and MOD websites. This information is also available on the Royal Mail website.

MOD undertook press and media campaigns in the run up to Christmas to promote the reduction in volume of Unsolicited Mail, which places a considerable burden on the Supply Chain, which, left unchecked, can seriously delay personal mail.

Finally, over the Christmas period, Royal Mail occasionally delivers directly to BFPO to shorten transport time, rather than BFPO staff collecting mail from the Royal Mail Depot at Greenford.

### Armed Forces: Equipment

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number is of (i) items of night vision equipment, (ii) pieces of body armour and (iii) small arms for pre-deployment training. [305023]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The current required and actual number of night vision equipment, body armour and small arms specifically held for pre-deployment training are provided in the following table.

| | *Requirement* | *Holdings* |
|---|---|---|
| *Night vision systems* | | |
| Helmet Mounted Night Vision System | 7,168 | 4,477 |
| Light Weight Thermal Image sights (VIPIR 2 and 2+) | 971 | 762 |
| *Body armour* | | |
| Osprey | 2,901 | 4,697 |
| Osprey Assault | 6,146 | 0 |
| *Small arms* | | |
| Light Machine Gun | 922 | 922 |
| Shotgun | 198 | 70 |
| Sig Pistol | 3,007 | 1,162 |

Where there is a shortfall against the pre-deployment training requirement, this reflects the newness of equipment, or the growth in forces deployed. We are making further progress in closing the gap and should meet the full requirement for each equipment type identified (except the Sig Pistol) by July 2010, and in some cases earlier than July. All pistols (some 25,000) are due to be replaced as part of the Soldier System Lethality programme.

Equipment availability for pre-deployment training is carefully managed and prioritised to ensure that operators are safe, qualified and competent on the equipment prior to deployment.

In addition to the equipment allocated specifically for pre-deployment training, further equipment is held by units themselves; these items are not included in the figures as they are not specifically held for pre-deployment training.

### Armed Forces: Injuries

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 287-8W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what compensation is payable for loss of *(a)* the penis and *(b)* normal use of the penis under the provisions of the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation scheme) Order 2005; and what level of severity of injury on the scheme's scale such compensation represents. [304725]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation Scheme) Order 2005 makes provision of compensation for all members and former members of the regular armed forces or reserve forces should they be injured, become ill or die as a result of service. Awards are tariff based depending upon the nature and severity of the injury. There is no standard provision for particular types of injury or theatre of operation.

The following table reflects the current Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation Scheme) Order 2005 tariff covering injury to the genitalia.

| *Tariff* | *Descriptor* | *Compensation award (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| | Either | |
| 14 | Traumatic injury to genitalia requiring treatment resulting in moderate permanent damage | 2,888 |
| | Or | |
| 12 | Traumatic injury to genitalia requiring treatment resulting in severe permanent damage or loss | 9,075 |

In addition, where appropriate, the following tariff may be awarded:

| *Tariff* | *Descriptor* | *Compensation award* |
|---|---|---|
| 8 | Infertility—this level will also attract a guaranteed income payment (GIP) which is a tax-free index linked payment that is paid monthly for life after leaving the armed forces. The GIP is determined by the individual's salary at time of discharge from service, multiplied by a relevant factor. | Lump sum £48,875 + GIP |

These provisions are included within the review of the AFCS, being led by Lord Boyce.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of drivers is for each armoured vehicle type in the armed forces. [305024]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** This information is not held centrally, or in the format requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armoured vehicles are used by a number of corps and units across the armed forces. Units are required to train using a ratio of 1.5 crew operators (drivers) per vehicle against their peacetime establishment. This ratio is different for operational requirements, which is usually set at two crew operators per vehicle.

These ratios may vary depending on the vehicle, however all requirements are currently being met.

### AWE Aldermaston

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on preparations for Project Pegasus at AWE Aldermaston. [304681]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Work to prepare the site commenced in 2007, and includes site investigation, the removal of redundant services, preparatory ground works and services diversion works. This work is allowable prior to planning consent being received, and is currently planned to complete by the end of 2010.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the length of the construction period for the new enriched uranium facility at AWE Aldermaston as proposed in the planning application made to West Berkshire council; what plans he has for the usage of the uranium processed there; and if he will make a statement. [305195]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The replacement enriched uranium handling facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment is due on current plans to become operational in 2018. The materiel outputs of the facility are for use in the Defence nuclear programme. I am not prepared to disclose further details of usage as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security and defence in the UK.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 403W, on Atomic Weapons Establishment: radioactive waste, who owns the radioactive waste at the site; and whether the costs of storing radioactive waste at Atomic Weapons Establishment sites are covered in the contract arrangements between AWE plc and his Department. [305227]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Ministry of Defence owns the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) sites and all radioactive waste stored on those sites. The cost of storing radioactive waste at AWE is covered in the management and operation contract between AWE Management Ltd and the Department.

### Departmental Buildings

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assets his Department has sold and leased back in each of the last 10 years; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [305284]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** During the last 10 years this Department has entered into a number of temporary lease back arrangements in the course of estate disposals, for example to allow time for facilities to be reprovided.

The details requested are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

So far as the disposal of other surplus Ministry of Defence assets (such as ships, tanks, aircraft, plant, IT and other equipment) is concerned, no lease backs are entered into.

### Departmental Compensation

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* damages awarded against it and *(b)* legal costs in respect of cases in the courts relating to a decision of the Army Board under the redress system in respect of which legal proceedings have been completed since 1997. [305054]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) alcohol and (ii) entertainment in the last 12 months. [305542]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 422-33. The provision of alcohol at public expense must be in moderation and is subject to both financial and quantity restrictions.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 509-22, on supply estimates, what the equivalent figures are for each estimate type in his Department's winter supplementary estimate for 2009-10. [305104]

**Bill Rammell:** I am placing a copy of the requested information in the Library of the House, which breaks down the MOD's 2009-10 winter supplementary estimate in the same format as we have supplied before.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what payments the Met Office has made to *(a)* Cavendish Communications and *(b)* Politics International in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each contract under which such payments have been made. [305063]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The following payments have been made in each of the last three financial years:

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| | *Politics International* | *Cavendish Communications* |
| 2006-07 | 61,671 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 54,362 | 0 |
| 2008-09 | 11,669 | 16,000 |

Payments relate principally to training and support for Met Office events. The contracts between the Met Office and Cavendish Communications and Politics International are confidential.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305218]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The use of 0800, 0845 and 0870 numbers is determined at local level in accordance with individual business requirements and obtained directly from the supplier. Records of such numbers are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305386]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The MOD received 643 named day questions during the past 12 months and answered 482 (75 per cent.) on the day named. The MOD aims to answer all named day questions on the day named, but where this is not possible, we aim to provide a substantive reply at the earliest opportunity.

The following table shows the number of questions which were due for answer in each month and the number answered on the day named:

| *Month* | *Number of named day Questions for answer* | *Number of questions answered on the day named* |
|---|---|---|
| December 2008 | 53 | 39 |
| January 2009 | 61 | 40 |
| February 2009 | 47 | 36 |
| March 2009 | 58 | 37 |
| April 2009 | 22 | 17 |
| May 2009 | 54 | 39 |
| June 2009 | 56 | 43 |
| July 2009 | 51 | 43 |
| September 2009 | 74 | 72 |
| October 2009 | 79 | 53 |
| November 2009 | 88 | 63 |
| Total | 643 | 482 |

### HMS Endurance

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what decisions have been taken in respect of the *(a)* repair and *(b)* replacement of HMS Endurance; what tenders have been sought in respect of damage caused to her; what the cost was of her return to the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [304687]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Options for restoring our Ice Patrol capability are presently being examined and no final decisions on whether to repair or replace HMS Endurance have yet been taken. Therefore, no tenders have yet been sought. The cost to the Department of returning her to the United Kingdom was approximately £4.3 million.

### Kentigern House

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when and for what reasons his Department decided to sell and lease back its Kentigern House site in Glasgow. [305281]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The decision to sell and lease back Kentigern House in Glasgow was taken as part of the planning round that concluded in spring 2009.

Sale and leaseback is a commercially accepted practice ensuring the MOD maintains use of the facility while releasing useful capital.

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consultation was undertaken with unions representing staff at his Department's Kentigern House site in Glasgow prior to the sale and lease back of the site. [305283]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Ms Clark), on 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 294W.

### Rescue Services: Helicopters

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopter call outs of each type from each search and rescue station there were in each of the last 10 years; and how many *(a)* day and *(b)* night time hours off-station each call out entailed. [303634]

**Bill Rammell:** I am placing data showing the number of helicopter call outs of each type from each search and rescue (SAR) station in each of the last 10 years in the Library of the House.

Information on the actual daytime and night-time hours off-station for each call out is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Further data on military SAR activities is published by Defence Analytical Services and Advice at the following link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=66&pubType=0

All UK SAR helicopter units are able to provide overlapping cover when an adjacent unit is either already committed to a SAR operation or operating at a reduced capability for any reason, or during periods of temporary closure. The provision of adjacent SAR cover is standard practice and occurs routinely when a SAR helicopter is already airborne on a search and rescue sortie or is unserviceable.

### St. Kilda: Radar

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many incidents of oil leakage from his Department's facilities in the vicinity of St. Kilda have been recorded in each of the last three years; [304186]

(2) what measures are in place to prevent the leakage of oil into seawater from his Department's facilities in the vicinity of St. Kilda. [304187]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** No oil leakages from Ministry of Defence facilities on or in the vicinity of St. Kilda has been recorded during the last three years.

The Bulk Fuel Installation (BFI) located on St. Kilda, in support of activity at the MOD Hebrides Range, is compliant with the current legal standard, the Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Ship-to-shore replenishment of the BFI is undertaken in compliance with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency approved "St Kilda Oil Spillage Response Plan", prepared in accordance with the merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998.

A number of measures are in place to protect the environment from spills and leakage. The oil tanks and associated equipment are enclosed within a physical containment barrier, known as a bund. As an additional precaution, the fuel connection points, pipe-work, valves, vent points, sight glass, rainwater sump, oil-water interceptors, and spillage kits are protected against the effects of ice.

Vehicle refuelling on the island is undertaken within the containment area. The refuelling pump is only operated by authorised personnel, and is locked when not in use.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Betting Shops: Horseracing

**Mr. Caborn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the effect on the Horserace Betting Levy of the operation of betting exchanges. [305287]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Government have not made such an estimate. However, the Horserace Betting Levy Board informs me that the levy payable by betting exchanges is equivalent to 10 per cent. of their gross profits, defined as gross commission on British Horserace Betting Business deducted from winnings paid out to bettors and bet-takers. In the year ended 31 March 2009, Betfair also made a voluntary contribution to the Levy Board in respect of British Horserace Betting Business conducted by their off-shore website in Malta.

Betting exchanges operate a business model that does not deliver product through shops. When bookmakers accept risk on bets and do so in shops, liability to levy and gross profits tax is calculated without the deduction of overheads. This leads to a proportionately larger contribution to the levy than would be the case for a betting exchange.

### Broadband: East Midlands

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that people resident in *(a)* West Derbyshire and *(b)* the East Midlands have access to high-speed broadband. [303189]

**Mr. Timms:** I have been asked to reply.

The Next Generation Fund will help to bring fast broadband to at least 90 per cent. of households in the UK by 2017. The fund will promote the roll out of infrastructure that meets the needs of businesses and households in regions the market would not otherwise deliver to. It will work alongside the Government's Universal Service Commitment, a parallel infrastructure investment programme to ensure virtually every community has access to a broadband connection capable of providing at least 2Mbps.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305687]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department has not refurbished or carried out any works to offices allocated to Ministers in the last 12 months.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306080]

**Mr. Simon:** Since 2001 my Department has purchased one plasma television screen at a cost of £2,715.31 inc VAT. The cost covered purchase and installation in June 2007.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305496]

**Mr. Simon:** The information is published regularly by Government, and can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the Heritage Lottery Fund has made to *(a)* Blue Rubican, *(b)* Greenhause Communications and *(c)* Strategem in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [305139]

**Mr. Simon:** The information requested is not held centrally and is an operational matter for the Heritage Lottery Fund, who have been unable to provide the information requested to the timescales dictated by parliamentary convention.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the Gambling Commission has made to Grayling Political Strategy in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [305140]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information the hon. Member has requested is not held centrally and is a matter for the Gambling Commission.

Accordingly, I have asked the responsible director to write to the hon. Member. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Departmental Scientists

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [302027]

**Mr. Simon:** DCMS has one chief scientific adviser who is a Senior Civil Servant, Director, and Board member. The chief scientific adviser leads a team of 15 civil servants working in a variety of scientific or research posts across the disciplines of economics, statistics, social or operational research.

### Departmental Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302722]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** 26 November and 8 November respectively.

### Edelman UK: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments his Department has made to Edelman in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305133]

**Mr. Simon:** No direct payments have been made to Edelman by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in the last 12 months. However, Edelman was engaged through Central Office of Information to provide brand and event development support to the Creativity and Business International Network.

### Fishburn Hedges: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the Digital Switchover Help Scheme has made to Fishburn Hedges in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305132]

**Mr. Simon:** The BBC is responsible for administering the Digital Switchover Help Scheme.

Accordingly I have asked the chief executive of the scheme to write to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Gambling Commission: Birmingham

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the operating costs of the Gambling Commission were in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what proportion of the change in costs is accounted for by the relocation of the Commission in Birmingham. [305119]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Gambling Commission completed its move to Birmingham in July 2006. The total operating costs of the Commission were £6.645 million in 2007-08 falling to £5.027 million in 2008-09.

### Gambling Commission: Finance

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what value for money objectives his Department has set for the Gambling Commission. [305121]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Gambling Commission's performance is primarily assessed through a funding agreement with the Department which includes their agreed strategic objectives, together with funding and performance indicators/targets. They were set a target of achieving 3 per cent. value for money efficiency savings, year on year, over the period of the funding agreement 2008-09 to 2010-11.

### Gambling Commission: Reviews

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the operation of the Gambling Commission with the recommendations of the Hampton Review of Regulation. [305118]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Gambling Commission was the subject of a Hampton Implementation Review earlier this year which suggested that, if the Commission's plans were implemented, it would be in a strong position to demonstrate the Hampton principles throughout its work. The implementation of those plans is a strategic objective in the Commission's 2009 business plan and my officials and I meet the Commission on a regular basis to consider progress against all of the objectives in that plan. The Commission is making good progress on these measures.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305665]

**Mr. Simon:** All travel is conducted in accordance with rules set out in the Department's staff guide under travel and subsistence and is consistent with the civil service management code. Travel by Ministers is made in pursuance of their ministerial duties and complies with guidance set out in the Ministerial Code.

Expenditure on hotels is included within travel and subsistence claims made by Ministers and officials. The information is not held separately or analysed by the categories requested in the Department's accounting system. It can be obtained by retrieving and manually analysing a large number of travel, subsistence and incidental expense claims only at disproportionate cost.

### Licensed Premises: Statistics

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of each response received to the licensing questionnaire which formed the basis for the Licensing Statistical Bulletin 2009. [304706]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Responses received to the licensing questionnaire which formed the basis for the Licensing Statistical Bulletin 2009 are available on the DCMS website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6387.aspx

### National Lottery: Grants

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the funds to be distributed from the National Lottery to good causes in each year to 2015; and if he will make a statement. [305356]

**Mr. Simon:** DCMS does not forecast future Lottery income, but we do issue projections of what income might be if total sales stay at approximately the last year's level. The latest income projection issued to non-Olympic Lottery distributors in September 2009 was as follows:

*£ million*

| | *Total income* | *Transfer to Olympics* |
|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 1,386 | 292 |
| 2010-11 | 1,391 | 292 |
| 2011-12 | 1,392 | 292 |
| 2012-13 | 1,453 | 136 |
| 2013-14 | 1,488 | — |
| 2014-15 | 1,492 | — |

The total income column is gross income, i.e. before the Olympic transfers are taken into account.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been distributed by the Big Lottery Fund to statutory bodies in each of the last five years. [305357]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Big Lottery Fund has distributed funding to statutory bodies where they are best placed to deliver outcomes for communities and people most in need. The Big Lottery Fund does not fund statutory bodies' core work nor does it substitute or replace statutory funding. Where BIG distributes funding to statutory bodies it is often on the precondition that they work in partnership with voluntary and community sector organisations.

The following table shows the amount awarded to statutory bodies across the UK by the Big Lottery Fund each full financial year since its inception on 1 June 2004.

| *Financial year ending 31 March* | *Number of awards* | *Total awarded (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 1,664 | 59,210,398 |
| 2007 | 1,619 | 38,144,003 |
| 2008 | 2,612 | 173,326,762 |
| 2009 | 2,073 | 41,420,649 |

Funding made through statutory bodies as third party award partners where the voluntary and community sector organisations are the direct beneficiary have not been included in these figures.

Amounts retained by the statutory third party award partner for administrative costs have been included.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Contracts

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what criteria his Department use in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department has spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303136]

**Ann McKechin:** Other than minor purchases, the Scotland Office does not undertake discrete procurement or tendering projects. It utilises existing service contracts between suppliers and the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice. These awarding authorities would take the lead in such matters and would determine the criteria for the award of contract. The Office has not incurred any direct spend on the advertisement of tenders.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Northern Ireland Equality Commission: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what payments the Northern Ireland Equality Commission has made to Stratagem in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305162]

**Mr. Woodward:** The sponsorship of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland is a matter for the devolved Administration.

### Police Service of Northern Ireland

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has budgeted for introducing police community support officers to Northern Ireland; and what the budgeted cost of one police officer in Northern Ireland was in the latest period for which figures are available. [302941]

**Paul Goggins:** The 2007 comprehensive spending review period (CSR07) runs to 31 March 2011. Based on current plans, the PSNI has not budgeted for the introduction of PCSOs in this period. This was agreed by the Chief Constable and the NI Policing Board in allocating resources for the CSR07 period. The budgeted cost of one police officer in Northern Ireland in 2009-10 is £45,000.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of introducing police community support officers in Northern Ireland. [302942]

**Paul Goggins:** The 2007 comprehensive spending review period (CSR07) runs to 31 March 2011. Based on current plans, the PSNI has not budgeted for the introduction of PCSOs in this period. This was agreed by the Chief Constable and the NI Policing Board in allocating resources for the CSR07 period. The estimated cost of one police community support officer in Northern Ireland is £27,000 per annum but the actual cost would depend on how they were introduced. Decisions on the introduction of PCSOs would be for the Chief Constable and Policing Board.

### Weapons: Explosives

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent assessment is of the level of illegally held *(a)* weapons and *(b)* explosives in Northern Ireland. [304592]

**Paul Goggins:** The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning has worked, and continues to work, to put the armaments of republican and loyalist terrorist groups beyond use. By their nature estimates of illegally held weaponry would be speculative and it is not Government practice to provide information on this basis.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Capita

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let by his Department in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much his Department paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc hold with his Department; and what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between his Department and Capita Group plc. [303156]

**Dan Norris:** The core-Department does not hold centrally information on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let in each of the last five years and how many such tenders were successful. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. From information held centrally the expenditure with the Capita Group since 2005-06 is as follows:

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10 (April-October)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Capita Business Services Ltd. | 91,672.75 | 653,407.60 | 201,571.59 | 203,859.69 | 72,598.59 |
| Capita Health Solutions Ltd. | 11,4[illegible].84 | 9,527.35 | 124,278.15 | 6,184.56 | 2,284.39 |
| Capita Resourcing Ltd. | 408,611.15 | 273,835.10 | 354,072.03 | 479,800.64 | 315,128.28 |
| Capita Symonds Ltd. | 374,023.15 | 329,480.73 | 37,461.58 | — | — |
| Capita Communications | — | 6,184.57 | — | — | — |
| Capita Trust Company Ltd. | — | — | — | 8,781.25 | — |

From information held centrally the core-Department has no contracts which terminate after 2010. It is not possible to calculate the monetary value of all outstanding contracts between the core-Department and Capita Group plc because the contracts may vary in terms, length, services, costs and in the demands made upon them.

### Climate Change: Antarctic

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for the UK of the findings of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research report on Antarctic climate change and the environment. [304584]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government welcome this comprehensive and timely report from the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) which has been circulated to all delegations ahead of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Copenhagen for their consideration. Antarctica is an important barometer for global climate change and changes there will have far reaching impacts including on the UK. I congratulate all those involved in the SCAR report in particular those UK scientists, most notably from the British Antarctic Survey, who played a leading role. The Government are committed to the protection of the Antarctic environment and strongly support the Antarctic treaty and its environmental protocol. I recently launched for consultation the draft Antarctic Bill which will add to the protection we give to Antarctica. The report will be discussed in detail at the Antarctic treaty meeting of experts on climate change in April 2010 and also at the Antarctic treaty consultative meeting in Uruguay in May.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302416]

**Dan Norris:** Staff costs for the central team with responsibility for updating and maintaining DEFRA's websites are estimated to be around £340,000 in the

2008-09 financial year, and the same in 2009-10. This central team is also responsible for the DEFRA intranet, and the staff costs for the external DEFRA website alone cannot be readily disaggregated.

Additional costs in 2009-10 of £71,149 have been incurred for specialist web design, audience research and web accessibility auditing relating to the relaunch of the DEFRA website in September 2009. This relaunch was the first significant investment in the DEFRA website since the creation of the Department in 2001, and work on it spanned two financial years. There are no such expenses currently planned for 2010-11.

Website hosting services—as well as a range of IT applications—are provided as part of DEFRA's overall IT service provision and the costs of this aspect of website maintenance cannot be readily disaggregated.

### Departmental Taxis

**Ian Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred against each such contract in each of the last three years. [300832]

**Dan Norris:** The core-Department has no contracts with private hire taxi companies. Paragraph 8.2 of the civil service management code requires staff use the most efficient and economic means of travel in the circumstances, taking into account any management benefit or the needs of staff with disabilities.

On expenditure, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Southwark and Bermondsey (Simon Hughes) of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1455-56W.

### Flood Control: Expenditure

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on flood protection measures in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* the City of York Council area in each year since 2000-01. [304591]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The following table provides an analysis of Government funding to the Environment Agency for flood risk management between 2000-01 and 2008-09.

The figures are based upon the annual report and accounts of the Environment Agency.

Until 2004-05 the flood risk management function of the Environment Agency was funded primarily through a combination of grants from DEFRA for specific projects and levies on local authorities.

Both forms of funding were largely replaced by grant in aid from DEFRA from 2004-05 onwards.

| | *Total England (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 248.9 |
| 2001-02 | 285.6 |
| 2002-03 | 309.8 |
| 2003-04 | 331.3 |
| 2004-05 | 355.6 |
| 2005-06 | 420.6 |
| 2006-07 | 419.2 |
| 2007-08 | 438.9 |
| 2008-09 | 513.9 |

The following table shows the total expenditure of the Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee in total and specifically on the City of York.

*£000*

| | *Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee*[1] | *City of York* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Capital* | *Revenue* |
| 2000-01 | 28,578 | 0 | [2]582 |
| 2001-02 | 30,715 | 0 | [2]675 |
| 2002-03 | 41,548 | 56 | [2]768 |
| 2003-04 | 37,330 | 130 | [2]780 |
| 2004-05 | 33,421 | 0 | 750 |
| 2005-06 | 40,684 | 120 | 830 |
| 2006-07 | 34,015 | 110 | 650 |
| 2007-08 | 35,174 | 24 | 663 |
| 2008-09 | 41,791 | 56 | 676 |

[1] Total spend for Yorkshire and north bank of Humber (including York)

[2] Estimates proportioned from Ouse revenue spend

### Marine Management Organisation

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether an equality impact assessment was published prior to the decision on the future headquarters of the Marine Management Organisation being made. [305170]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** An initial equality impact assessment (EqIA) was published on the Marine and Fisheries Agency's (MFA's) intranet pages prior to the decision on the future headquarters of the Marine Management Organisation being made.

This was done in the form of an initial assessment on the relocation project generally taking into account all the shortlisted locations. The finalised 'full' version of the EqIA—which takes account of the more recently known building location in Newcastle—was published on 2 November 2009 (having first been discussed with the departmental trade union, including MFA representation).

### Oils: Waste

**John Thurso:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of waste oils was transhipped as waste for processing outside the UK in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [304638]

**Dan Norris:** The Environment Agency is responsible for recording the transfrontier shipment of waste oils for England and Wales. The following table sets out the quantities of waste oils exported from England and Wales from 2001 to 2008.

| | *Tonnes* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 0 |
| 2002 | 0 |
| 2003 | 1,981 |
| 2004 | 9,015 |
| 2005 | 20 |
| 2006 | 0 |
| 2007 | 7,705 |
| 2008 | 9,298 |

These data are reported to the secretariat of the Basel convention.

## Organic Farming

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of land in *(a)* England and *(b)* North Yorkshire and York organically farmed in each year since 1997. [304588]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We do not hold this information for years prior to 2002.

*Organic and In-conversion land in hectares England*

| | *Hectares* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 184,045 |
| 2003 | 220,197 |
| 2004 | 229,626 |
| 2005 | 238,355 |
| 2006 | 229,861 |
| 2007 | 258,744 |
| 2008 | 283,993 |

We do not hold specific data for North Yorkshire and York, but we have data for Yorkshire and Humberside, as follows.

*Organic and In-conversion land, in hectares, Yorkshire and Humberside*

| | *Hectares* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 6,968 |
| 2003 | 8,079 |
| 2004 | 8,560 |
| 2005 | 8,978 |
| 2006 | 9,032 |
| 2007 | 9,625 |
| 2008 | 10,899 |

## Rights of Way

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hectares of land in *(a)* England and *(b)* North Yorkshire and York have been opened to the public under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to date. [304590]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The area of land opened to the public under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 to date in England, North Yorkshire and York is shown in the following table.

| | *England* | *North Yorkshire county* | *City of York* |
|---|---|---|---|
| CROW Access[1] | 865,119 | 174,025 | 188 |
| CROW Section 16[2] | 153,466 | 14 ,570 | 112 |

[1] CROW Access land includes conclusive open country and registered common land mapped in accordance with Section 4 of The CROW Act 2000, with areas of excepted land (military byelaw, racecourse and aerodromes) and CROW Section 28 restrictions (military and National Security) removed.

[2] CROW Section 16 is land which has been dedicated for the purposes of open access in accordance with Section 16 of The CROW Act 2000.

*Notes:*

1. All figures are in Hectares (calculated using Cartesian area in MapInfo).
2. The figure for CROW Access land together with the figure for CROW Section 16 gives the total access land for a given area.

## TRANSPORT

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) of 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1815-6W, on departmental electronic equipment, what the purposes were of the purchase of 55 DVD players by his Department's agencies. [305150]

**Chris Mole:** As previously advised the Department for Transport has spent £55 on DVD players.

The DVD players were purchased by the Highways Agency and the Vehicle Certification Agency. They are used for delivering in-house training with video content, and for test engineers to show short videos of vehicle tests.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many full-time equivalent press officers (a) are employed by and (b) work for his Department. [303606]

**Chris Mole:** The number of full-time equivalent staff (FTE) employed on press officer activities on 1 April 2009 by the Department for Transport both directly and, where identifiable, indirectly is set out in the following table.

*Staff (FTE) employed on press officer activities*

| | *DFT employees* | *Other workers[1]* |
|---|---|---|
| DFT(C) | 13 | Nil |
| DSA | 6[2] | 0 |
| DVLA | 5 | Nil |
| GCDA | Nil | Nil |
| HA | 11 | 3 |
| MCA | 2 | Nil |
| VCA | Nil | Nil |
| VOSA | 1 | 1 |

[1] Other workers include temporary employment agency staff.

[2] DSA figure includes fixed term employment

The staff resource deployed by the Central Office of Information in providing their regional News and PR services to parts of the Department can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Highways Agency (HA) has seven regional press officers to support its new Traffic Officer service and seven regional control centres. These press officers are employed to raise awareness of the Traffic Officers and the agency's role as network operator for England's motorways and major A roads.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what payments the Northern Lighthouse Board has made to Grayling Political Strategy in the last 12 months for which figures are available; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305128]

**Paul Clark:** In the 12 months to 31 October 2009, the Northern Lighthouse Board paid Grayling Political Strategy £30,606.74. The Northern Lighthouse Board has a contract with Grayling Political Strategy to provide parliamentary and media monitoring services to highlight issues directly or indirectly affecting the Board's activities.

The contract between the Northern Lighthouse Board and Grayling Political Strategy is a private contract containing commercially sensitive information and therefore it would be inappropriate to place a copy of the contract in the Library.

### Departmental Taxis

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many miles (*a*) Ministers and (*b*) officials in his Department and its predecessor travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302704]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport (DFT) and its agencies do not record the mileage of taxi journeys, and so this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Available figures for the cost are included in the following table. Four agencies do not record taxi fares separately from other travel costs, and could provide the information only at disproportionate cost. For DFT(c), Driving Standards Agency (DSA), Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) information for years earlier than those shown could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

£

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DFT(c) | — | 87,163 | 98,299 | 138,401 | 130,764 | 143,968 | 137,968 |
| DSA | | — | — | — | 11,256 | 19,839 | 24,119 |
| DVLA | 23,359 | 36,807 | 42,276 | 54,458 | 64,236 | 47,195 | 52,041 |
| VCA | | | 1,589 | 2,581 | 2,416 | 2,078 | 3,562 |

### Departmental Theft

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many officials of (*a*) his Department and (*b*) its agencies have (i) been reprimanded, (ii) had their contract of employment terminated and (iii) been prosecuted for theft of departmental property in each of the last three years; and what items were stolen in each case. [300968]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport has had no employees that have been reprimanded, had their contract of employment terminated nor been prosecuted for theft of departmental property over the last three years.

Six out of the seven Department's agencies have also had no employees that have been reprimanded, had their contract of employment terminated nor been prosecuted for theft of department property over the last three years. However, the seventh agency, The Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency, is unable to provide the information requested as it would involve disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Working Hours

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what proportion of staff of his Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301331]

**Chris Mole:** Information relating to flexible working in the Department for Transport can be found at the following links in the Department's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/travelplans/dfttravelplan/departmentfortransporttravelplan?page=3#a1025

flexible working arrangements.

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/diversity/esmr/equality/equalitymonitoring0809/pdf/equailtyreport0809.pdf

information on the number of part-time staff.

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/diversity/talent1/diversitystratplan.pdf

diversity strategy and delivery plan.

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/diversity/networks/flexibleworkingnetworkgroup

flexible working network group.

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/news/2009/june/job-share.aspx

information relating to the civil service job share notice board.

### Driving

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive (*a*) a vehicle for which (i) his

Department and (ii) one of its Executive agencies is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) his Department and (B) one of its executive agencies have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302172]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport has a departmental Driving at Work policy that includes the requirement for every driver or rider to hold a valid driving licence. If drivers or riders use their own vehicles they must also have appropriate insurance provision. Further detailed arrangements vary according to the exact business need in each agency and the central Department.

All staff who drive or ride on departmental business have their driving licences and insurance provision checked by line management or in the case of DVLA by a dedicated team. Usually this is by visual inspection but in some parts of the Department it is done by self-certification supported by management checks. There are regular reviews of the appropriate documentation that vary between six months to a year or whenever there is a change of circumstances.

Detailed guidance is available to all staff in respect of road safety while on departmental business and line managers are responsible for monitoring arrangements. Guidance includes practical advice like checking vehicles prior to a journey, planning journeys and the need for regular breaks, using seat belts, not using a mobile phone while driving.

Staff are required to report all accidents via the internal arrangements in their agency or the Central Department. Reporting requirements includes accidents while driving in the course of their official duties. All accidents are investigated.

## M5: Automatic Number Plate Recognition

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 132W, on M5: cameras, how many automatic number plate recognition cameras are in use for the detection of traffic offences on the M5; and if he will list the offences so detected in the last 12 months. [303439]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 2 December 2009]:* The average speed cameras currently in use on the M5 to secure speed limit compliance through roadworks are shown in the table.

| *Scheme* | *Location* | *Safety camera partnership* | *Number of cameras* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gloucester Driver Information Scheme—new signs providing drivers with real time advance information on road conditions | J11a-13 | Gloucester Safety Camera Partnership | 8 |
| Newton Farm resurfacing/barrier replacement works | J13-14 | West Mercia Safety Camera Partnership | 14 |

As explained in my answer of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 132W, the other types of cameras are not used for the detection of traffic offences.

Traffic offences are administered by the relevant Safety Camera Partnership Group and the Highways Agency does not keep records of these. Any enquiries relating to offences detected in the last 12 months would therefore have to be addressed directly to the Gloucester Safety Camera Partnership and the West Mercia Safety Camera Partnership respectively, for the above locations.

## Norwich-London Railway Line

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions bus transport was provided instead of rail for all or part of the journey due to *(a)* routine and *(b)* non-routine maintenance on the Norwich to London Liverpool Street railway line in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009 to date. [302432]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested. In the case of maintenance, either routine or otherwise, the decision to replace rail with bus transport will be taken by the train operating company and Network Rail.

## Railways: Scotland

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether East Coast plans to continue to run direct passenger rail services from London to Glasgow via Edinburgh. [304271]

**Chris Mole:** The timetable has not been decided as the stakeholder consultation exercise has not yet taken place. Options for rail services on the East Coast mainline are being examined, but no decision has been taken.

## Railways: Standards

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 56-8W, on railways: standards, if he will provide a table showing the number of trains cancelled by each train operating company in each of the last five years given as a percentage of all trains scheduled to run; and if he will provide the same information in respect of peak hour trains in London and the South East. [301248]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 24 November 2009]:* The table requested is as follows, showing the number of trains cancelled by each franchised train operator in each of the last five years as a percentage of all trains scheduled to run. Data are given for the five most recent financial years, including 2009-10 up to October 2009.

*Percentage of all scheduled trains cancelled*

| *Train operator* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *Percentage 2009-10 (to October 2009)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ATW | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| c2c | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| Chiltern | 1.4 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| CrossCountry | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| East Midlands Trains | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 0.7 |
| FCC | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 1.1 |
| FGW | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 0.6 |
| London Midland | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 1.2 |
| London Overground | 2.1 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Merseyrail | 1.5 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| Northern Rail | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.7 |
| NXEA | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.9 |
| NXEC | 1.3 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| Southeastern | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 0.6 |
| Southern | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 0.7 |
| SWT | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 0.4 |
| TPE | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.5 |
| Virgin Trains | 1.0 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 2.5 | 1.3 |

The equivalent detail for peak hour trains in London and the South East is as follows:

*Percentage of scheduled peak hour trains cancelled*

|  | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *Percentage 2009-10 (to October 2009)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| c2c | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.5 |
| Chiltern | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.8 |
| FCC | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 1.1 |
| FGW 'Link' Only | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 0.7 |
| London Midland | 0.5 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 2.4 | 1.0 |
| London Overground | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.9 |
| NXEA | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Southeastern | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 0.9 |
| Southern | 1.3 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 0.8 |
| SWT | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 0.4 |

## Railways: Tickets

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on which rail networks Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation ticket systems are in use. [300738]

**Chris Mole:** South West Trains has an ITSO smartcard pilot in operation between Staines and Windsor and Eton Riverside. Another pilot is planned for the Worcester area shortly on London Midland services. Both are precursors to wider rollouts in future. On 23 November we announced the launch of pay as you go (PAYG) in London from 2 January 2010 which will allow use of Oyster on London rail services.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which rail franchises include mandatory provisions for introducing Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation-compliant ticket systems; and when such a system is to be implemented under the terms of each franchise. [300739]

**Chris Mole:** South West Trains, London Midland, East Coast, Southern, Arriva Cross Country and East Midlands Trains all have smartcard obligations. The specific details of these commitments are commercially sensitive as they will be the subject of competitive tender by the respective train operator and therefore are not in the public domain.

## Roads: Accidents

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic accidents in *(a)* Berkshire and *(b)* Reading East constituency involved drivers without a licence in each of the last five years. [304634]

**Paul Clark:** Information about whether drivers involved in road accidents hold a licence is not held centrally.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many deaths in road traffic accidents there have been on roads in *(a)* Vale of York constituency, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1994. [305240]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is given in the table:

*Number of fatalities in reported personal injury road accidents in (a) Vale of York constituency, (b) North Yorkshire County and (c) England, 1994-2008*

*Number of fatalities*

| *Accident year* | *(a) Vale of York[1]* | *(b) North Yorkshire[2]* | *(c) England* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 18 | 84 | 3,077 |
| 1995 | 16 | 92 | 2,995 |
| 1996 | 13 | 79 | 3,024 |
| 1997 | 21 | 67 | 3,001 |
| 1998 | 18 | 80 | 2,834 |
| 1999 | 6 | 68 | 2,922 |
| 2000 | 18 | 96 | 2,915 |
| 2001 | 14 | 82 | 2,916 |
| 2002 | 26 | 95 | 2,900 |
| 2003 | 19 | 68 | 3,004 |
| 2004 | 7 | 80 | 2,714* |
| 2005 | 13 | 85 | 2,735 |
| 2006 | 16 | 69 | 2,695 |
| 2007 | 26 | 81 | 2,502 |
| 2008 | 5 | 52 | 2,123 |

[1] Based on 2004 constituency boundary.
[2] Includes unitary authority of City of York.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the rates of road accidents resulting in death or serious injury per 100,000 head of resident population were for *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* England in each year since 1994. [305306]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is given in the table:

*Reported fatal or serious road accidents per 100,000 population in (a) North Yorkshire county, (b) Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region and (c) England 1994-2008*

*Accidents per 100,000 population*

| Accident year | (a) North Yorkshire[1] | (b) Yorkshire and the Humber | (c) England |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 166 | 73 | 75 |
| 1995 | 156 | 76 | 74 |
| 1996 | 155 | 71 | 73 |
| 1997 | 166 | 70 | 71 |
| 1998 | 137 | 66 | 67 |
| 1999 | 145 | 65 | 64 |
| 2000 | 126 | 62 | 63 |
| 2001 | 130 | 65 | 61 |
| 2002 | 131 | 64 | 59 |
| 2003 | 124 | 62 | 56 |
| 2004 | 117 | 59 | 52 |
| 2005 | 108 | 58 | 48 |
| 2006 | 117 | 55 | 48 |
| 2007 | 112 | 55 | 46 |
| 2008 | 99 | 49 | 42 |

[1] Includes York Unitary Authority

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road accidents resulted in minor injury in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* London, *(c)* Lancashire and *(d)* England in each year since 1994. [305307]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is given in the following table:

*Reported road accidents involving slight injuries[1] in (a) North Yorkshire county, (b) London, (c) Lancashire county and (d) England 1994-2008*

*Number of accidents*

| Accident year | (a) North Yorkshire[2] | (b) London | (c) Lancashire[3] | (d) England |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 2,560 | 33,001 | 5,357 | 176,769 |
| 1995 | 2,550 | 33,100 | 5,064 | 177,225 |
| 1996 | 2,647 | 33,435 | 5,376 | 183,588 |
| 1997 | 2,661 | 33,634 | 5,520 | 186,128 |
| 1998 | 2,731 | 33,170 | 5,366 | 188,486 |
| 1999 | 2,736 | 33,676 | 4,965 | 186,501 |
| 2000 | 2,617 | 33,233 | 4,906 | 186,905 |
| 2001 | 2,652 | 32,219 | 5,134 | 182,640 |
| 2002 | 2,702 | 29,762 | 5,002 | 176,080 |
| 2003 | 2,644 | 27,090 | 4,613 | 169,650 |
| 2004 | 2,620 | 25,506 | 4,574 | 164,035 |
| 2005 | 2,292 | 23,025 | 4,656 | 158,516 |
| 2006 | 2,166 | 21,762 | 4,620 | 149,465 |
| 2007 | 2,136 | 20,330 | 4,905 | 143,560 |
| 2008 | 1,961 | 20,371 | 4,175 | 134,036 |

[1] Includes accidents where fatal or serious injuries were also recorded

[2] Includes York Unitary Authority

[3] Includes Blackburn and Blackpool Unitary Authorities

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road accidents resulted in the death or serious injury of *(a)* an adult and *(b)* a child in (i) North Yorkshire, (ii) London, (iii) Lancashire and (iv) England in each year since 1994. [305308]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is given in the following tables:

*(a) Reported road accidents involving an adult[1] killed or seriously injured in (i) North Yorkshire county, (ii) London, (iii) Lancashire county and (iv) England 1994-2008*

*Number of accidents*

| Accident year | (i) North Yorkshire[2] | (ii) London | (iii) Lancashire[3] | (iv) England |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 635 | 4,530 | 1,212 | 30,271 |
| 1995 | 701 | 4,750 | 1,172 | 29,934 |
| 1996 | 765 | 5,010 | 1,036 | 29,705 |
| 1997 | 843 | 5,276 | 1,026 | 29,251 |
| 1998 | 700 | 5,100 | 872 | 27,821 |
| 1999 | 753 | 4,612 | 840 | 26,734 |
| 2000 | 656 | 4,746 | 763 | 26,479 |
| 2001 | 692 | 4,710 | 850 | 25,904 |
| 2002 | 705 | 4,419 | 776 | 25,514 |
| 2003 | 676 | 4,097 | 760 | 24,566 |
| 2004 | 630 | 3,280 | 718 | 22,516 |
| 2005 | 591 | 2,892 | 768 | 21,317 |
| 2006 | 663 | 3,064 | 819 | 21,396 |
| 2007 | 631 | 2,956 | 750 | 20,915 |
| 2008 | 596 | 2,726 | 717 | 19,312 |

[1] Aged 16 years and over

[2] Includes York Unitary Authority

[3] Includes Blackburn and Blackpool Unitary Authorities

*(b) Reported road accidents involving a child[1] killed or seriously injured in (i) North Yorkshire county, (ii) London, (iii) Lancashire county and (iv) England 1994-2008*

*Number of accidents*

| Accident year | (i) North Yorkshire[2] | (ii) London | (iii) Lancashire[3] | (iv) England |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 105 | 847 | 291 | 5,809 |
| 1995 | 100 | 908 | 300 | 5,740 |
| 1996 | 130 | 870 | 273 | 5,561 |
| 1997 | 105 | 912 | 262 | 5,213 |
| 1998 | 84 | 921 | 259 | 4,936 |
| 1999 | 65 | 732 | 211 | 4,593 |
| 2000 | 71 | 782 | 165 | 4,216 |
| 2001 | 59 | 696 | 201 | 4,090 |
| 2002 | 63 | 593 | 167 | 3,725 |
| 2003 | 58 | 522 | 144 | 3,322 |
| 2004 | 65 | 496 | 140 | 3,197 |
| 2005 | 53 | 536 | 150 | 2,860 |
| 2006 | 43 | 372 | 174 | 2,668 |
| 2007 | 46 | 315 | 143 | 2,561 |
| 2008 | 36 | 305 | 126 | 2,310 |

[1] Aged 0 to 15 years

[2] Includes York Unitary Authority

[3] Includes Blackburn and Blackpool Unitary Authorities

## Rolling Stock: Procurement

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will exercise his option to order the remaining carriages for the Pendolino fleet before the end of 2009. [304272]

**Chris Mole:** The option to extend the remaining 21 Pendolino trains to 11 carriages is currently being considered by the Department for Transport and an announcement will be made in due course.

## Speed Limits: East Sussex

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many speed cameras there were in East Sussex on the latest date for which information is available. [304261]

**Paul Clark:** Separate information about cameras operating in East Sussex is not held. The number of camera sites operating in Sussex at the end of the National Safety Camera programme, which ended on 31 March 2007, was 81. Since then, the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The number of cameras currently in place will therefore be a matter for East and West Sussex county councils and the local road safety partnership.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Council Housing: Finance

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to announce the conclusions on his Department's review of the financing of council housing. [305566]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Consultation on my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing's proposals to replace the housing revenue account subsidy system with a devolved system of responsibility and funding for council housing closed on Tuesday 27 October. We intend to set out our plans for implementing reform early next year.

### Council Housing: Sales

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which 10 *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords have sold the largest number of dwellings in the last five years; how many dwellings each sold in that period; and what the monetary value of such dwellings was. [304456]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The following table shows which local authorities have sold the largest number of social homes to sitting tenants over the last five years, the number of properties sold, and the value of these sales:

| *LA code* | *LA name* | *Number of sales (2004-05 to 2008-09)* | *Market value (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 00DA | Leeds | 4,270 | 297.8 |
| 00CN | Birmingham | 4,090 | 304.5 |
| 00BN | Manchester | 3,990 | 251.7 |
| 00BE | Southwark | 3,080 | 563.5 |
| 00CG | Sheffield | 2,890 | 167.4 |
| 00FA | Kingston upon Hull | 2,340 | 116.1 |
| 00CE | Doncaster | 2,310 | 130.5 |
| 00BR | Salford | 2,060 | 122.6 |
| 00CJ | Newcastle upon Tyne | 1,980 | 115.3 |
| 00FY | Nottingham | 1,910 | 131.5 |

*Source:*
P1B returns to CLG from local authorities

The market value of these properties includes the capital receipts received and the value of any discounts available.

The following table shows which registered social landlords have sold the largest number of social homes to sitting tenants over the last five years, and the number of properties sold:

| *RSL code* | *RSL name* | *Number of sales (2004-05 to 2008-09)* |
|---|---|---|
| LH4343 | Knowsley Housing Trust | 1,550 |
| L3676 | Home Group Ltd. | 1,020 |
| L0715 | Derwent Housing Association Ltd. | 1,000 |
| L4441 | Wakefield and District Housing Ltd. | 940 |
| L4431 | Erimus Housing Ltd. | 910 |
| L0014 | Peabody Trust | 820 |
| L0659 | Places for People | 730 |
| L0017 | Riverside Housing | 700 |
| LH0250 | Liverpool Housing Trust Ltd. | 690 |
| L4342 | Coast and Country Housing Ltd. | 690 |

*Source:*
Regulatory and Statistical Returns (RSR) to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) from registered social landlords

The RSR returns do not include details on the monetary value of RSL properties sold to sitting tenants. Details on RSL capital receipts are available from continuous recording (CORE) returns to the TSA, but these exclude sales by smaller RSLs and therefore under-record the number of RSL sales and the capital receipts.

These figures include all social housing sales to sitting tenants. They do not include sales of new-build properties through HomeBuy sales, or sales and transfers between local authorities and RSLs.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average yearly running costs of a photocopier in his Department, excluding value added tax and including all service fees and rental costs, was in the latest period for which figures are available. [305940]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department uses a variety of photocopying devices which we obtain from different suppliers through the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions. The calculation of average running costs could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average purchase price, excluding value added tax, was of a 500-sheet ream of white A4 photocopier paper by his Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [305941]

**Barbara Follett:** As part of its commitment to the Government's sustainable procurement agenda the Department uses 100 per cent. recycled A4 80 gsm copier paper at a current average cost of £2.02 for a 500-sheet ream.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305500]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested can be found in tables 1 and 2 of the Ministry of Justice's Report 'Annual Statistics on the Operation of the FoI Act in Central Government, 2008'. This can be located at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/foi-statistics-report-2008.pdf

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) alcohol and (ii) entertainment in the last 12 months. [305541]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department does not hold this information centrally and it could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

The Planning Inspectorate has had no expenditure on alcohol and entertainment in the last 12 months.

Fire Service College has spent £1,531 on business entertainment in the financial year 2009-10 to date. Information on alcohol expenditure can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre has incurred £743 in entertaining expenditure during the last 12 months.

All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Departmental Scientists

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [302028]

**Barbara Follett:** There are currently 15 civil servants in scientific posts in Communities and Local Government. This does not include information on scientific posts in departmental agencies, which is not held centrally.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many days of staff absence as a result of *(a)* snow and *(b)* other weather conditions were recorded by local authorities in the last 12 months. [305563]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305377]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested is provided in the following table:

| *Month* | *Number of questions tabled for answer on a named day* | *Number of questions provided a substantive answer on the day named* |
|---|---|---|
| *2009* | | |
| November | 114 | 70 |
| October | 68 | 49 |
| September | 54 | 39 |
| August | 6 | |
| July | 76 | 70 |
| June | 102 | 93 |
| May | 50 | 42 |
| April | 75 | 74 |
| March | 109 | 104 |
| February | 91 | 72 |
| January | 46 | 41 |
| *2008* | | |
| December | 37 | 30 |

### Empty Property: Greater London

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of empty *(a)* residential and *(b)* commercial properties in the London borough of (i) Bexley, (ii) Bromley, (iii) Croydon and (iv) Greenwich in the last three years for which figures are available. [304995]

**Barbara Follett:** The number of empty domestic dwellings in the London boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, Croydon and Greenwich in 2007, 2008 and 2009 are shown in the following table. The data include both short-term and long-term empty dwellings.

*Number of empty domestic dwellings*

| | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bexley | 2,247 | 2,123 | 2,059 |
| Bromley | 3,537 | 3,617 | 3,613 |
| Croydon | 4,053 | 3,599 | 4,066 |
| Greenwich | 3,294 | 3,404 | 3,497 |

The data are taken from the council tax base (CTB) and CTB (Supplementary) forms completed annually in October by all billing authorities in England and returned to Communities and Local Government.

Details of the number of empty non-domestic hereditaments are not currently available.

### Empty Property: Tyne and Wear

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty properties there were in each tenure sector in each local authority in Tyne and Wear in each April from 2004 to 2009. [302538]

**Barbara Follett:** Details of the number of empty domestic dwellings in each of the five local authorities in the Tyne and Wear area for 2004 to 2009 are shown in the following table.

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gateshead | 5,488 | 6,162 | 5,180 | 4,989 | 5,715 | 5,583 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 6,141 | 5,829 | 5,595 | 5,710 | 4,811 | 4,385 |
| North Tyneside | 2,877 | 2,818 | 2,841 | 2,992 | 3,186 | 3,209 |
| South Tyneside | 1,997 | 2,282 | 2,396 | 2,411 | 2,389 | 2,305 |
| Sunderland | 4,114 | 4,477 | 4,652 | 4,431 | 4,440 | 4,183 |

The data are both short-term and long-term empty dwellings as reported annually by all billing authorities in England in October of the year. Data are not collected in April.

No estimates of empty non-domestic properties have been published.

## Flood Control: Finance

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding, in cash terms, each local authority in England which applied for Bellwin funding in each of the last three years did not receive back in compensation as a result of the 0.2 per cent. grant threshold in the Bellwin fund limiting the amount of compensation that a council receives. [305929]

**Barbara Follett:** The threshold has been set at 0.2 per cent. of a local authority's calculated annual revenue budget. This is because the Government, throughout the lifetime of the Bellwin scheme, has thought it reasonable to expect authorities to cover costs themselves up to a certain level. Every local authority is required to maintain reserves, one of whose main purposes is to meet unexpected costs. Successive Governments have retained the threshold and it has never been waived, even during the 1987 storms, the 2000 floods, the foot-and-mouth crisis or the 2007 summer floods.

The following table shows the threshold applied for each local authority that received Bellwin funding within the last three years:

| *Local authority* | *Scheme* | *Threshold (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Babergh District Council | Babergh Storm January 2007 | 18,879 |
| Shepway District Council | Folkestone Earthquake April 2007 | 36,395 |
| Barnsley Met Borough Council | Summer floods 2007 | 579,755 |
| Bassetlaw District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 31,864 |
| Bridgenorth District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 11,966 |
| Cheltenham Borough Council | Summer floods 2007 | 31,321 |
| Chesterfield Borough Council | Summer floods 2007 | 27,833 |
| City of Lincoln Council | Summer floods 2007 | 31,337 |
| Cotswold District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 20,119 |
| Derbyshire Dales District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 19,232 |
| Doncaster Met Borough Council | Summer floods 2007 | 745,486 |
| East Lindsey District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 41,216 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire Council | Summer floods 2007 | 758,249 |
| Gloucester City Council | Summer floods 2007 | 33,470 |
| Gloucestershire County Council | Summer floods 2007 | 1,209,229 |
| Gloucestershire Police Authority | Summer floods 2007 | 191,318 |
| Hereford and Worcester Fire And Rescue Authority | Summer floods 2007 | 56,572 |
| Herefordshire Council | Summer floods 2007 | 408,526 |
| Humberside Fire and Rescue Services | Summer floods 2007 | 88,443 |
| Kingston Upon Hull City Council | Summer floods 2007 | 691,077 |
| Lichfield District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 21,293 |
| Malvern Hills District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 17,055 |
| Newark And Sherwood District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 31,398 |
| North East Derbyshire District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 25,322 |
| North Lincolnshire Council | Summer floods 2007 | 396,760 |
| Oxford City Council | Summer floods 2007 | 54,099 |
| Rotherham Met Borough Council | Summer floods 2007 | 701,482 |
| Scarborough Borough Council | Summer floods 2007 | 39,709 |
| Sheffield City Council | Summer floods 2007 | 1,393,290 |
| Shropshire County Council | Summer floods 2007 | 599,949 |
| South Shropshire District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 13,700 |
| South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority | Summer floods 2007 | 109,744 |
| Stratford on Avon District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 25,692 |
| Stroud District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 28,257 |
| Tewkesbury Borough Council | Summer floods 2007 | 15,642 |
| Vale of White Horse District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 23,261 |
| Warwick District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 33,890 |
| West Berkshire Council | Summer floods 2007 | 368,367 |
| West Lindsey District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 26,026 |
| West Oxfordshire District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 17,976 |
| Worcester City Council | Summer floods 2007 | 25,291 |
| Wychavon District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 23,841 |
| Wyre Forest District Council | Summer floods 2007 | 28,144 |
| Great Yarmouth Borough Council | Norfolk Storms November 2007 | 28,704 |
| North Norfolk District Council | Norfolk storms November 2007 | 27,484 |

| *Local authority* | *Scheme* | *Threshold (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Barnsley Met Borough Council | January floods 2008 | [1]n/a |
| Newark and Sherwood District Council | January floods 2008 | [1]n/a |
| North Lincolnshire Council | January floods 2008 | [1]n/a |
| Oxford City Council | January floods 2008 | [1]n/a |
| Vale of White Horse District Council | January floods 2008 | [1]n/a |
| West Oxfordshire District Council | January floods 2008 | [1]n/a |
| Castle Morpeth Borough Council | September floods 2008 | 14,122 |
| Herefordshire Council | September floods 2008 | 432,525 |
| Shropshire County Council | September floods 2008 | 631,994 |

[1] The threshold applies to annual spending and not to spending on each incident. So authorities who report more than one incident in the same financial year take spending on all reported incidents into account in calculating whether they have exceeded the threshold. In the table above, all the authorities affected by the January 2008 floods had already incurred the annual threshold as part of their claims for the 2007 summer floods which was in the same financial year, so it was not applied for this subsequent scheme.

## Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305668]

**Barbara Follett:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1642W.

Figures for earlier years and disaggregating for Ministers, special advisers and civil servant could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

## Housing: Rural Areas

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an estimate of the number of homes in rural areas which have changed ownership in each year since 1997. [305354]

**Mr. Ian Austin** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]*: We have assumed that the number of homes in rural areas which have changed ownership is made up of private sector sales and LA and RSL dwellings that have been sold to sitting tenants.

The estimated number of homes in rural areas which have changed ownership in each year since 1997 is presented as follows:

| | *Private sector sales* | *Social homes sold by LAs and RSLs to sitting tenants* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 427,317 | 15,890 |
| 1998 | 405,767 | 14,540 |
| 1999 | 463,149 | 19,970 |
| 2000 | 426,018 | 16,750 |
| 2001 | 462,657 | 16,520 |
| 2002 | 489,901 | 19,640 |
| 2003 | 438,270 | 19,560 |
| 2004 | 443,117 | 12,500 |
| 2005 | 370,601 | 6,920 |
| 2006 | 470,621 | 5,020 |
| 2007 | 451,438 | 3,170 |
| 2008 | 234,041 | 820 |

Figures on private sector sales are from Land Registry data, and are based on changes of ownership of properties at market value price. Sales below market value (such as right to buy) are excluded from the private sector sales. Sales at under £1,000 and sales above £20 million have been excluded. Some properties may have been sold more than once during the period.

Figures on social homes sold are from quarterly P1B returns to CLG from local authorities, and from regulatory and statistical returns (RSR) to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) from registered social landlords. They include sales to sitting tenants through right to buy, preserved right to buy, right to acquire, rent to mortgage, and voluntary purchase grant. Large-scale voluntary transfers (LSVTs) of local authority stock to RSLs are not included in the figures.

Local authorities that are classed as rural under the DEFRA rural codes have been included and local authorities classed as urban by DEFRA have been filtered out. Some 178 local authorities have been defined as rural by the DEFRA rural definition (2004).

## Local Government Finance

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the effect of cancellation of property developments on revenue from rates in the latest period for which figures are available. [302309]

**Barbara Follett:** No estimate of the effect of cancellation of property developments on revenue from non-domestic business rates has been made.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the £250 million local government efficiency savings referred to in the Department of Health consultation document on Personal Care at Home he expects to be made from each budget of each local authority. [304698]

**Barbara Follett:** The commitment to offer free personal care at home to those with highest needs is expected to cost up to £670 million per full year. The Government, through the Department of Health, will provide the bulk of this funding (£420 million per full year). It is right that councils play their part, and the remainder of the funding will come from efficiencies in local government. However, it is not for central Government to micro-manage the budgets of local authorities. They are best placed to make decisions on how to fund this important commitment. It is for this reason that the additional funding being provided by central Government will be distributed on a non-ringfenced basis. The Department of Health is consulting separately on the formulae that will be used for distributing the grant to councils.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to ensure the delivery of the £250 million local government efficiency savings referred to in the Department of Health consultation document on Personal Care at Home. [304699]

**Barbara Follett:** The Government are investing an unprecedented £450 million in supporting local government to deliver transformation, improvement and efficiency in the three years to 2010-11. With this support, local government has shown the capacity to generate significant levels of efficiency. Since 2004-05, local government has delivered £4.5 billion in efficiency savings. Last year alone, as part of the Government's efficiency drive, local authorities reported a £1.7 billion saving on their £5.5 billion target between 2008-09 and 2010-11. Work is already under way through Total Place and Smarter Government to identify new ways of maintaining high quality local services in a time of public expenditure constraint. And at a time when prices are falling everywhere, local government will be given a 4 per cent. increase in total government grant next year.

### Local Government Finance: Chorley

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding Chorley borough council received from the rate support grant in each year since 1997. [305344]

**Barbara Follett:** The following table shows the increases for Chorley borough council in formula grant for each year from 1998-99 onwards on a like-for-like basis—i.e. after adjusting for changes in function and funding.

| | *Prior years adjusted formula grant[1] (£ million)* | *Current year's formula grant[2] (£ million)* | *Change (£ million)* | *Percentage Change* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 5.505 | 5.290 | -0.215 | -3.9 |
| 1999-2000 | 5.290 | 5.428 | 0.139 | 2.6 |
| 2000-01 | 5.428 | 5.676 | 0.248 | 4.6 |
| 2001-02 | 5.715 | 5.888 | 0.173 | 3.0 |
| 2002-03 | 5.789 | 6.105 | 0.316 | 5.5 |
| Amended 2003-04 | 5.948 | 6.691 | 0.743 | 12.5 |
| Amended 2004-05 | 5.972 | 6.309 | 0.338 | 5.7 |
| Amended 2005-06 | 6.336 | 6.655 | 0.319 | 5.0 |
| 2006-07[3] | 7.378 | 7.698 | 0.320 | 4.3 |
| 2007-08 | 7.671 | 8.008 | 0.337 | 4.4 |
| 2008-09 | 8.063 | 8.221 | 0.158 | 2.0 |
| 2009-10 | 8.221 | 8.358 | 0.137 | 1.67 |
| 2010-11 provisional | 8.358 | 8.487 | 0.129 | 1.5 |

[1] The prior year's formula grant is adjusted for changes in function and funding to enable a like-for-like comparison.

[2] Formula Grant comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates, principal formula Police Grant, SSA Reduction Grant (SSA Review), SSA Reduction Grant (Police Funding Review) and Central Support Protection Grant where appropriate.

[3] Prior to 2006-07 support for schools was paid through formula grant. In 2006-07 funding for schools transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant.

The amount of formula grant an authority receives each year is not directly comparable due to changes in funding and functions. For example, prior to 2006-07 funding for schools was included within formula grant; from 2006-07 onwards funding for schools was provided by the dedicated schools grant. For this reason, we adjust the prior year's formula grant, for comparison purposes only, so that it reflects the notional amount of formula grant an authority would have received in that year had we been financing the same services as in the current year.

The Department only holds data on year-on-year changes in formula grant on a like-for-like basis from 1997-98. This is because it only became necessary to make these calculations when guarantees were introduced that formula grant would not go down from one year to the next.

### Mersey Coastal Park

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance his Department has made available for the implementation of the Mersey Coastal Park Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [304834]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Mersey Coastal Park strategy has yet to be finalised and I can confirm that the Department has not provided any direct support. The Northwest Regional Development Agency are in discussion with partners in order to ensure the strategy builds on previous funding and maximises the potential for private sector investment.

### Multiple Occupation

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to announce his conclusions on his Department's review of the planning rules for houses in multiple occupation. [305567]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** We are currently considering the responses to the consultation on houses in multiple occupation and possible planning responses. We aim to make an announcement on the way forward shortly.

### Non-Domestic Rates

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* small business multiplier and *(b)* national non-domestic multiplier was in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10; and what the provisional multipliers are for 2010-11. [304889]

**Barbara Follett:** Details of the small business rate multiplier and the national non-domestic rates multipliers for 2007-08 to 2009-10 are shown in the following table:

*Pence*

| | *Small business rate multiplier* | *National non-domestic rates multiplier* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 44.1 | 44.4 |
| 2008,09 | 45.8 | 46.2 |
| 2009-10 | 48.1 | 48.5 |
| 2010-11 | 40.7 | 41.4 |

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was collected in business rates after the deduction of reliefs in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [304890]

**Barbara Follett:** Details of the amount of non-domestic rates collected, after the deduction of reliefs, but before the deduction of the cost of collection or losses, in 2007-08 and 2008-09 and corresponding estimates for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are given in the following table.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 17,369 |
| 2008-09 | 19,072 |
| 2009-10 | 20,623 |
| 2010-11 | 20,791 |

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring that the share of the national rates bill paid by any one of them reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government over the five years of the 2010 list because, although initially we will collect 1.5 per cent. more in 2010-11, this will be reduced in later years by appeals. Once all these appeals have been settled we expect the amount collected in 2010-11 to be less then that in 2009-10.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage change in the *(a)* small business and *(b)* national non-domestic multiplier will be between 2009-10 and 2010-11; what proportion of this change is attributable to (i) changes in rateable value arising from the 2010 revaluation and (ii) the level of retail price index inflation in September 2009; and whether the percentage change in collectable rates and the relevant multipliers will match. [304891]

**Barbara Follett:** The small business multiplier is 48.1p for 2009-10 and the provisional small business multiplier for 2010-11 is 40.7p. The percentage change between the two figures is -15.4 per cent.

An estimate of the small business multiplier based on zero inflation (i.e. considering only the effect of revaluation) was published in the 'transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England' consultation document. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

| | *Pence* | *Percentage change when compared to 2009-10* |
|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 Small Business Multiplier | 48.1 | — |
| 2010-11 Small Business Multiplier (zero inflation, as published in the consultation document) | 41.3 | -14.1 |
| 2010-11 Small Business Multiplier (including September 2009 RPI, and same assumptions as in the consultation document | 40.7 | -15.4 |

The national non-domestic multiplier is determined by adding a supplement to the small business multiplier to fund the estimated cost of the small business rate relief scheme. In 2009-10 this supplement was 0.4p, bringing the national non-domestic multiplier to 48.5p. For 2010-11, the supplement is estimated at 0.7p, bringing the provisional national non-domestic multiplier to 41.4p. The percentage change between the two is -14.6 per cent.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

## Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hereditaments were in receipt of empty property relief in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figure in 2009-10. [304883]

**Barbara Follett:** Local authorities reported to Communities and Local Government that there were 186,400 hereditaments in receipt of empty property relief on 31 December 2007. On the same date in 2008 the number was 147,900.

These figures were not collected for 2006-07 and no estimate has been made for 2009-10.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monetary value of empty property relief was in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; what estimate he has made of the equivalent figure in 2009-10; and what the actual figure is in 2009-10 to date. [304884]

**Barbara Follett:** The amount of empty property relief granted in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 and the amount forecast to be granted in 2009-10 are as follows:

*Empty property relief*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 1,362 |
| 2007-08 | 1,294 |
| 2008-09 | 487 |
| 2009-10 | 570 |

In 2008-09, the rules governing empty and partly occupied property relief were reformed by the Rating (Empty Properties) Act 2007 and further reforms were introduced for 2009-10.

Data are as reported to Communities and Local Government by all billing authorities in England on the annual National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) returns.

The figures given are the net empty property relief granted in that year irrespective of the year to which the empty property relief related. It can also include the repayment of non-domestic rates where empty property relief should have been granted in previous years but was not.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the proportion of the 70 per cent. of properties with a rateable value below £15,000 that will claim full relief from business rates in 2009-10 as a result of being empty. [304885]

**Barbara Follett:** Our reforms to empty property relief are principled and right for the long-term, providing strong incentives for owners to re-let and re-use empty property. A £1.3 billion subsidy to owners of empty commercial property was no longer justified.

However, we have listened to owners. In 2009-10 all empty properties with rateable values up to £15,000 are eligible for full relief from business rates—70 per cent. of all properties are under this threshold and, if empty, are not liable for rates in 2009-10.

This temporary measure is providing real help to owners to manage short-term pressures in a difficult property market.

No estimate has been made of the proportion of hereditaments, which have a rateable value below £15,000, that are claiming full relief from business rates as a result of being empty.

The 'National Non-domestic rates collected by local authorities in England 2009-10 (Forecast)' Statistical Release that was published on 28 May 2009 estimated that, in total, 148,000 hereditaments were empty in England as at 31 December 2008. This release can be found on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/nondomesticrates200910f

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the total monetary value of the full relief from business rates in 2009-10 for empty properties with a rateable value below £15,000. [304886]

**Barbara Follett:** Our reforms to empty property relief are principled and right for the long-term, providing strong incentives for owners to re-let and re-use empty property. A £1.3 billion subsidy to owners of empty commercial property was no longer justified.

However, we have listened to owners. In 2009-10 all empty properties with rateable values up to £15,000 are eligible for full relief from business rates—70 per cent. of all properties are under this threshold and, if empty, are not liable for rates in 2009-10.

This temporary measure is providing real help to owners to manage short-term pressures in a difficult property market.

No data on the monetary value of the full relief from business rates in 2009-10 given to empty properties with a rateable value below £15,000 are collected centrally.

An impact assessment of the proposals to increase the exemption threshold for empty property relief from £2,200 to £15,000 was published in February 2009. This forecast is based on a number of assumptions, which are detailed in the impact assessment available at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/em/uksiem_20090353_en.pdf

The impact assessment forecast that the reform would increase the amount of empty property relief provided by £205 million. The forecast excludes the relief granted to hereditaments with a rateable value of less than £2,200, of which no estimate has been made.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average period of time was for which empty property relief was claimed on a hereditament in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; what estimate he has made of the equivalent figure for 2009-10; and what the actual figure is for 2009-10 to date. [304887]

**Barbara Follett:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to undertake an assessment of the benefits of following the Northern Ireland example of postponing the 2010 business rates revaluation. [305938]

**Barbara Follett:** The postponement of revaluation in Northern Ireland is a devolved decision made by the Northern Ireland Assembly and based on local circumstances.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

### Property Development: Floods

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been *(a)* built, *(b)* built on flood plains, *(c)* built in areas of significant flood risk and *(d)* built against the advice of the Environment Agency on the flood risk in each region in the last 10 years. [303296]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The number of homes built in each region, and approximate estimates of those built in areas of high flood risk in each region, for the past 10 years is given in the following table. Data are not available on the number of homes built against the advice of the Environment Agency.

*Total dwelling completions and estimated dwellings built on Flood Risk Areas, 1999 to 2008*

| | *Total completions* | *Built on flood risk areas* |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 67,760 | 1,200 |
| North West | 179,450 | 8,000 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 141,300 | 18,200 |
| East Midlands | 153,710 | 16,700 |
| West Midlands | 141,820 | 6,000 |
| East of England | 189,510 | 13,600 |
| London | 183,010 | 40,000 |
| South East | 251,530 | 18,200 |
| South West | 170,260 | 13,100 |
| England | 1,478,350 | 135,000 |

### Regeneration: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department has provided for *(a)* regeneration and *(b)* housing projects in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years; and how much such funding his Department plans to provide in 2010-11. [304997]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The following table illustrates the funding the Department provided to the London borough of Bexley for regeneration.

*Thames Gateway Programme*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 7,528,735 |
| 2006-07 | 17,911,209 |
| 2007-08 | 543,226 |
| 2008-09 | 2,580,050 |
| 2009-10 | 2,844,450 |
| 2010-11[1] | 4,533,905 |

[1] Grant funding committed

*(b)* The following tables illustrate the funding the Department provided to the London borough of Bexley for housing projects.

£

| | *Supporting people administration grant* | *Supporting people programme grant* | *Planning delivery grant* | *LA decent homes* | *National affordable housing programme* | *Overcrowding grant[1]* | *Homelessness grant* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 145,194 | 2,776,759 | 788,578 | 1,323,000 | 13,485,720 | — | 58,000 |
| 2006-07 | 145,194 | 2,776,454 | 493,062 | 0 | 15,221,744 | — | 88,000 |
| 2007-08 | 145,194 | 2,984,688 | 400,589 | 0 | 17,639,023 | — | 140,000 |

| | *Supporting people administration grant* | *Supporting people programme grant* | *Housing and planning delivery grant* | *LA decent homes* | *National affordable housing programme* | *Overcrowding grant[1]* | *Homelessness grant* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008/09 | 137,934 | 3,193,616 | 93,469[2] | 0 | 13,852,479 | 110,000 | 100,000 |
| 2009/10 | 127,045 | 3,417,169 | 83,125[2] | NA HP spend data for 2009-10 will not be available until 2010-11. No funding was provided for Private Sector Renewal and Regeneration | NAHP spend data for 2009-10 will not be available until 2010-11. No funding was provided for Private Sector Renewal and Regeneration | 80,000 | 101,500 |
| 2010-11 | 108,895 | 3,656,371 | No data is available for 2010-11 at present | — | — | Decisions about funding for 2010-11 have not been made | Decisions about funding for 2010-11 have not made |

[1] The London borough of Bexley did not receive Overcrowding Grant prior to 2008

[2] This amount is made up entirely from the planning element of the grant—the London borough of Bexley did not receive any funding for housing from this grant.

### Rented Housing

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to introduce a general registration scheme for rented housing. [305569]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** We consulted over the summer on our response to the independent review of the private rented sector carried out by Julie Rugg and David Rhodes of the Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York. This included proposals for a national register of private landlords. We have been considering the consultation responses received and plan to publish the results shortly.

## TREASURY

### Bookmakers: Betting Shops

**Mr. Caborn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the effect on Exchequer revenues of business transferring from licensed bookmakers to betting exchanges. [305286]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** No assessment has been made. Licensed bookmakers based in the UK pay 15 per cent. general betting duty on their profits. Betting exchanges based in the UK also pay 15 per cent. general betting duty on the commission they charge.

### Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305371]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Treasury Ministers endeavour to answer written parliamentary questions promptly wherever possible. Of the 876 named day questions tabled to the Treasury in the 2008-09 parliamentary session, 672 (77 per cent.) were answered on the day nominated by questioners.

### Excise Duties: Oil

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an assessment of the merits of amending the Hydrocarbon Oil (Registered Dealers in Controlled Oil) Regulations 2002 to exempt retailers who provide small amounts of loose controlled oil in customer-owned containers from the provisions of sections 23A(1) and (4) of the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979. [304823]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Registered Dealers in Controlled Oil (RDCO) scheme was introduced in 2002, with an exemption for businesses supplying and receiving oil in pre-packaged containers not exceeding 20 litres. All other supplies of controlled oils were included in the RDCO scheme. The scope of this exemption was reviewed in a post-implementation review of the scheme in 2005, and the decision was taken not to extend it. We continue to review the scheme in order to minimise the administrative burdens on businesses.

### Financial Services: Advisory Services

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what legal advice the Financial Services Authority *(a)* sought and *(b)* received on its proposals to require requalification by independent financial advisers; and if he will make a statement. [305117]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** As the Financial Services Authority is independent of central Government, I have asked it to respond to the hon. Member directly. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1096W.

### Property: Valuation

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total rateable value of properties on the 2005 Rating List was in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and what the total rateable value of properties is on the draft 2010 Rating List. [304888]

**Ian Pearson:** The total rateable values included in the 2005 Local Rating Lists England are as follows:

As at 1 April 2007 = £47,110 million

As at 1 April 2008 = £46,771 million

As at 29 May 2009 = £46,808 million

The total rateable value included in the draft 2010 Local Rating Lists England as at the 29 May 2009 was £55,871 million.

### Taxation: Business

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* other enterprises which have made Time to Pay arrangements with HM Revenue and Customs to defer tax through the Business Payment Support Service HM Revenue and Customs forecasts will be unable to meet their tax liabilities in (i) January 2010, (ii) February 2010, (iii) March 2010, (iv) April 2010, (v) May 2010, (vi) June 2010, (vii) July 2010, (viii) August 2010 and (ix) September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [304409]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) measures the Business Payment Support Service through the number and value of agreements reached, and not by the size of business.

No such forecasts have been made.

However, since the service was introduced on 24 November 2008, over 90 per cent. of the value of payments due have been paid. Where taxpayers do not meet the obligations of the Time to Pay agreement, HMRC takes appropriate recovery action to secure the tax due.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual additional revenue to the Exchequer that would arise from the removal of the payment of tax credits to households with incomes above £50,000. [303864]

**Mr. Timms:** The total annual tax credit entitlement for families earning more than £50,000 is estimated to be approximately £45 million.

This estimate is based on finalised incomes and circumstances of families benefiting from tax credits in 2007-08 which is the most recent year available. These statistics are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/ctcw-tax-credit-final-may09.pdf

Household income has been calculated based on income used to calculate tax credit entitlement and will therefore disregard in-year income rises of less than £25,000.

The total annual tax credits entitlement of these families will differ slightly from the additional revenue to the Exchequer of excluding them from tax credits, because of effects on over- and under-payments. Analysis of these effects is available only at disproportionate cost.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the level of second income threshold for tax withdrawal required to reduce annual expenditure on tax credits by £400 million. [303878]

**Mr. Timms:** To reduce total annual tax credit expenditure by £400 million, it is estimated that the second income threshold would need to be reduced to around £31,000.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Attendance Allowance

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, *(b)* the Highlands, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England and Wales have received attendance allowance in each of the last five years. [304689]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The available information is in the tables.

*Attendance allowance cases in payment: Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency*

| *May each year* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 1,940 |
| 2006 | 2,100 |
| 2007 | 2,070 |
| 2008 | 2,080 |
| 2009 | 2,190 |

*Attendance allowance cases in payment: Highlands*

| *May each year* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 5,080 |
| 2006 | 5,350 |
| 2007 | 5,310 |
| 2008 | 5,400 |
| 2009 | 5,650 |

*Attendance allowance cases in payment: by Government Office Region*

| *May each year* | *England* | *Wales* | *Scotland* | *Unknown/ Other* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 1,177,960 | 105,490 | 135,490 | 480 |
| 2006 | 1,217,760 | 108,630 | 138,790 | 420 |
| 2007 | 1,255,640 | 110,940 | 140,460 | 470 |
| 2008 | 1,290,470 | 113,130 | 142,630 | 450 |
| 2009 | 1,324,540 | 114,890 | 145,610 | 750 |

*Notes:*

1. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
3. The Highlands region is defined as the local authority of the claimant. The postcode of a claimant is used to assign the parliamentary constituency, local authority and government office region. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory. "Unknown/Other" includes individuals whose postcode cannot be matched to a government office region and those temporarily living abroad.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

### Carers' Benefits

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether people who provide full-time care for a member of their family are eligible for income support. [304688]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Income support is available, subject to normal means-testing rules, to people who regularly and substantially care for a family member or any other person.

In order to be eligible for income support, the carer must either be receiving carer's allowance or be providing regular and substantial care to a person who receives, or is awaiting a decision on a claim for, attendance allowance or one of the two higher care components of disability living allowance.

In addition, income support is available to people who are looking after a member of the family who is temporarily ill and to people who are temporarily looking after a child out of necessity because that child's parent or guardian is either ill or absent from home.

### Council Tax Benefits

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1160W, on social security benefits, when she expects to have the relevant information for *(a)* each quarter in 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 to date. [302357]

**Jim Knight:** We do not intend to publish claims processing and outstanding claims data for 2008-09. We are still working to quality assure claims processing data from 2009-10 onwards. We are currently unable to say when this will be complete.

Information on the number of outstanding claims is still to be looked at as part of the programme of data quality assurance, and at this stage there is no timetable for publishing that information.

### Crisis Loans

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of social fund crisis loans were alignment payments in each quarter since 2007. [302241]

**Helen Goodman:** The available information is given in the table.

*Alignment payment initial awards in Great Britain by quarter*

| *Quarter* | *Number* | *Proportion of total crisis loan initial awards (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| *2007* | | |
| January to March | 138,000 | 46.2 |
| April to June | 146,000 | 48.2 |
| July to September | 180,000 | 50.4 |
| October to December | 176,000 | 49.1 |
| *2008* | | |
| January to March | 188,000 | 45.5 |
| April to June | 194,000 | 46.0 |
| July to September | 212,000 | 46.3 |
| October to December | 220,000 | 45.3 |
| *2009* | | |
| January to March | 240,000 | 40.1 |

*Source:*

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

### Departmental Contracts

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria her Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much her Department and its predecessors spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303096]

**Jim Knight:** The criteria the Department uses in determining the award of contracts is tailored specifically to individual contracts. Contracts are let through a fair and open competitive tendering process underpinned by EU principles of transparency, equal treatment, non-discrimination and proportionality. Contracts should deliver sustainable best practice commercial services and solutions that support the required departmental business outcomes, take account of current policies and provide best value for money.

Departmental spend on advertising contracts since 1997 is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Where appropriate, current contracts are advertised through the *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJEU) which is free of charge. Procurement teams will also consider advertising in external trade journals and other relevant publications if appropriate to individual contracts.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of maintaining her Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within her responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302426]

**Jim Knight:** Ongoing delivery and maintenance of the Department's website is carried out by the Department's own in-house Digital Media team. It is not possible for us to extract and quantify internal staff costs, because in most cases, staff are engaged in more than one role. In addition, we are unable to establish accurately our annual running costs because they form part of a wider departmental IT contract.

We can provide a figure for 2008-09 development work, as we redeveloped the Department's website in that year. This is a one-off cost relating to that development only and is not an annual cost. This is £215,666.00.

The total forecast expenditure for Directgov in the 2009-10 financial year is £30,500,000. This is consistent with previously agreed financial figures and covers all aspects of Directgov business of which an aspect is website maintenance.

It is not possible to provide 2009-10 forecast costs for the remaining websites within the responsibility of the Department. We are working with Cabinet Office to implement a standardised method for quantifying website costs across Government in line with Central Office of Information guidelines. This is in response to a Public Accounts Committee recommendation. These costs will be available from April 2010 onwards as per the timetable.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to her Department was of provision of that office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302961]

**Jim Knight:** DWP special advisers are based in London and the annual cost of providing serviced office accommodation was £38,220 in 2008-09.

The cost of providing serviced accommodation for DWP press office and support staff in London, the regions, Scotland and Wales, was £233,914 in 2008-09. DWP press office carried out work on behalf of the Department, Jobcentre Plus, the Pensions, Disability and Carers Service and the Child Support Agency (now Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission).

### Disabled People: Social Security Benefits

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer to Lord Ashby of Stoke on 13 October 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 112-13, on, disabled people: benefits, which benefits are included in the Government's definition of disability benefits. [300399]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer on 23 November 2009]*: Attendance allowance and disability living allowance for those aged 65 and over.

### Flexible Working: Wales

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents of young children have exercised their right to request flexible working in *(a)* Newport East constituency and *(b)* Wales since the introduction of that right. [303499]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have been asked to reply.

The new employment rights introduced on April 2003 gave parents of children under six and disabled children under 18 the right to request flexible working. This was extended to carers in April 2007 and parents of children aged 16 and under in April 2009. The proportion of employees with children (under 16 years old) who have requested to work flexibly by region and nation in Great Britain are provided in the following table. These figures are from the Flexible Working Survey (2005). However information is not available for Newport East and due to a small sample size of respondents in Wales reliable information is only available for all employees' requests for flexible working, not those employees with children.

Later information comes from the Work Life Balance Survey (2006), which asked 2,081 employees in Great Britain whether they made a request in the last two years to change their working arrangements. Again, the relative small sample size representing Wales means reliable statistics are not available for parents of young children; however the survey found that 18 per cent. of all respondents in Wales requested flexible working, 17 per cent. for all of Great Britain.

*Table 1: Requests to work flexibly over last two years, employees with children*

*Percentage*

| | Employees with children (under 16) requests for flexible working | All employees |
|---|---|---|
| Great Britain | 19 | 14 |
| England | 19 | 14 |
| | | |
| North East | 20 | 13 |
| North West | [1] | 13 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 19 | 12 |
| East Midlands | 9 | 16 |
| West Midlands | 13 | 10 |
| East of England | [1] | [1] |
| London | 25 | 15 |
| South East | 18 | 14 |
| South West | 27 | 17 |
| | | |
| Wales | [1] | 14 |
| Scotland | 19 | 13 |

[1] Reliable figures are not available due to small sample sizes.

Source:

Flexible Working Employee Survey 2005

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to respond to the hon. Member of Billericay's letter of 2 November 2009 on Mr. D. Prance. [304708]

**Angela Eagle:** A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 7 December.

### Retirement

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will make it her policy to ensure that employers are required to give reasons for requiring a person to retire. [302463]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have been asked to reply.

The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 provide for a statutory retirement procedure which includes an employee's right to request to stay in employment beyond retirement age and a default retirement age of 65 that employers can use if they wish. The Government fixed the default retirement age at 65 for sound policy reasons and the High Court has confirmed that it is objectively justified. There is therefore no requirement for employers to give a reason why they are retiring someone if using the default retirement age.

We have brought forward the planned review of the default retirement age from 2011 to 2010. The review will consider whether the default retirement age remains appropriate and necessary.

### Social Security Benefits: Elderly

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which disability benefits are included in the figure of £6.1 billion quoted on page 101 of the Green Paper on "Shaping the Future of Care Together", for expenditure on the disability benefits specifically targeted at older people; and what estimate was made of the amount spent on each benefit. [300517]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* The £6.1 billion quoted on page 101 of "Shaping the Future of Care Together", refers to the amount of attendance allowance and disability living allowance paid in 2007-08 to those aged 65 and over in England. The expenditure was estimated at £3.5 and £2.6 billion respectively.

### Social Security Benefits: Greater Manchester

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the budget is for the Work for Your Benefits pilots in *(a)* Manchester and *(b)* Norfolk; [302401]

(2) what the timetable is for the Work for Your Benefits pilots in *(a)* Manchester and *(b)* Norfolk; and what evaluation process will take place during and after the pilots. [302402]

**Jim Knight:** There are two pilot areas, both of which cover multiple Jobcentre Plus Districts. The overall budget for the Work for Your Benefit programme is as follows:

*(a)* Greater Manchester Central and Greater Manchester East and West: £9.34 million

*(b)* Cambridgeshire and Suffolk; and Norfolk: £5.66 million

Both Work for Your Benefit pilots will start delivery in November 2010 and will run for two years. There will be a full and independent evaluation of the pilots which will begin in 2010. Findings will be available throughout the lifetime of the pilots with early results available from autumn 2011. A final report will be published in 2013-14.

### Social Security Benefits: Pilot Schemes

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects the Work for Your Benefits scheme to be rolled out nationally; and if she will make a statement. [302403]

**Jim Knight:** The Work for Your Benefit pilots are not yet operational and it would be premature to pre-judge the results of the evaluation. As such there are no current plans to roll the programme out nationally.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which employers have agreed to participate in Work for Your Benefits pilots to date. [302430]

**Jim Knight:** The Work for Your Benefit programme will be delivered through private, voluntary or public sector contractors. It will be for individual providers to source work experience placements with a variety of host organisations once contracts have been awarded. Procurement for these contracts is under way with contract award expected in the summer of 2010 with the pilots due to be launched in November 2010.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Animal Welfare

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 416W, on animal welfare, whether the guidance relating to named veterinary surgeons takes account of circumstances in which such a veterinary surgeon is a shareholder in a company owning a scientific procedures establishment. [304697]

**Meg Hillier:** Paragraphs 3.17 to 3.19 of the Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (HC321) dealing with conflicts of interest do not make specific reference to circumstances in which an individual is a shareholder in a company owning a scientific procedures establishment in which they are the named veterinary surgeon. However, all relevant circumstances will be taken into account when considering any suggestion that a potential conflict of interest exists.

### Asylum

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers who declared their age to be *(a)* 17, *(b)* 12 to 16, *(c)* five to 11 and *(d)* under five years old have been the subject of age disputes in each of the last 12 years. [302082]

**Alan Johnson:** The requested information is not collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case records.

### Criminal Records Bureau: Finance

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* the Criminal Records Bureau and *(b)* the Independent Safeguarding Authority for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [305364]

**Meg Hillier:** The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) is a self-funding agency.

However, for the implementation of the Vetting and Barring scheme the budget allocation to the CRB is (i) 7.33 million for 2009-10 and (ii) 4.3 million for 2010-11.

The funding for set up of the Vetting and Barring Scheme, including the costs associated with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), are provided by the Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department of Health (DH).

The funding allocated to the ISA is (i) £15.5 million for 2009-10 and (ii) £13.1 million currently for 2010-11.

### Deportation: Palestinians

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who have given their nationality as Palestinian have been deported to each country in each year since 1997. [303036]

**Alan Johnson:** The following table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures by destination for nationals of the Occupied Palestinian Territories between 2004 and 2008. Destination data prior to 2004 are not available.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

*Removals and voluntary departures[1] [2] for nationals of the Occupied Palestinian Territories by country of destination, 2004 to 2008*

| | | | | | | Number of departures[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007[5] | 2008[5] | 2004-08 |
| Total removals and voluntary departures | 170 | 140 | 175 | 355 | 320 | 1,155 |
| of which: Country of destination[6] | | | | | | |
| France | 120 | 65 | 95 | 230 | 215 | 720 |
| Lebanon | 5 | 15 | 15 | 25 | 15 | 75 |
| Italy | 5 | 10 | * | 20 | 15 | 55 |
| Occupied Palestinian Territories | * | 10 | 5 | 30 | 10 | 60 |
| Jordan | 10 | 5 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 55 |
| Belgium | | 5 | 5 | 15 | 15 | 40 |
| Ireland | * | | 15 | 5 | 5 | 30 |
| Egypt | * | * | 5 | 5 | 15 | 25 |
| Germany | 5 | 5 | 5 | * | * | 20 |
| Greece | 5 | * | 5 | 5 | 5 | 20 |
| Netherlands | * | 5 | | * | | 10 |
| Sweden | * | 5 | * | * | * | 10 |
| Spain | 5 | * | | * | * | 5 |
| Syria | * | * | * | * | | 5 |
| Austria | * | 5 | | | * | 5 |
| United States of America | 5 | | | | | 5 |
| Saudi Arabia | | | | * | * | * |
| United Arab Emirates | * | | * | | * | 5 |
| Other and not known | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 30 |

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 (– = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and since January 2005 persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[3] Figures include dependants.

[4] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[5] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

[6] Destination as recorded on source database.

### Entry Clearances

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department holds on the reasons given by overseas embassies in the UK for refusing to provide passports to their nationals who are legitimately in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [305191]

**Meg Hillier:** The Home Office holds no information on the reasons given by overseas embassies in the UK for refusing to provide passports to their nationals who are legitimately in the UK. The decision of whether or not to issue an identity document is a matter for the sovereign government in question.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office are responsible for certain administrative aspects of our relationship with foreign missions in the UK.

### Extradition

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* sent (i) from the UK to another EU member state and (ii) to the UK from another EU member state under the European arrest warrant, *(b)* extradited to the US under the UK/US extradition treaty and *(c)* extradited to the UK under the UK/US extradition treaty; and if he will make a statement. [304114]

**Meg Hillier:** *(a)* (i) The Serious Organised Crime Agency and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service are the designated authorities for the receipt and transmission of European arrest warrants (EAWs) in the UK. The number of EAW surrenders from the UK (excluding Scotland) to other EU member states from 1 January 2004-31 December 2008 is as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 24 |
| 2005 | 77 |
| 2006 | 151 |
| 2007 | 332 |
| 2008 | 515 |

(ii) The number of surrenders to the UK from other member states under the EAW procedure between 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2008 is as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 19 |
| 2005 | 63 |
| 2006 | 76 |
| 2007 | 99 |
| 2008 | 96 |

*(b)* In the same period, 68 people have been extradited to the US from the UK (excluding Scotland); and 34 people have been extradited in the other direction. The new UK-US extradition treaty came into force on 26 April 2007. The figures given in this reply cover extraditions made under the new and old bilateral arrangements.

### Government Communications

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department's Research, Information and Communications Unit is affiliated to the Government Communication Network. [305153]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Research, Information and Communications Unit (RICU) is not affiliated to the Government Communication Network (GCN), but a number of staff working within RICU have been recruited through and are members of the GCN.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he intends to reply to the letter of 5 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. Bashir Begum. [303413]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 2 December 2009.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he intends to reply to the letter of 29 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Kashif Masood. [303414]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 30 November 2009.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 5 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton on Mrs Bashir Begum. [305116]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 2 December 2009.

### Passports: Fees and Charges

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 957W, on passports, what fee will be charged for an application for a fingerprint biometric passport; and whether holders of existing passports will be required to obtain a fingerprint biometric passport. [303640]

**Alan Johnson:** The level of fees that will apply in the future when fingerprint biometric passports are introduced has not been set and will depend on the future fee strategy for passports and identity cards. However, the current standard fee for an adult passport is £77.50 and £30.00 for an identity card. Once fingerprint biometric passports are introduced, anyone applying for a passport, whether as a first time applicant or as an existing passport holder, would have the choice of being issued with a fingerprint biometric passport or a fingerprint biometric identity card or both documents.

### Police: Hunting

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the amount of police time spent on the policing of hunting and related activities in each year since 2000. [301639]

**Mr. Hanson:** The deployment of resources to investigate alleged offences committed under the Hunting Act 2004 is a matter for individual chief officers.

### Police: Public Appointments

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Chief Executive of the National Policing Improvement Agency was appointed; by whom he was appointed; whether he is eligible to receive a bonus; and if he will make a statement. [304012]

**Mr. Hanson:** Chief Constable Peter Neyroud was appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Designate of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) by the Minister of State for Policing in January 2006. He was appointed CEO upon the creation of the NPIA on 1 April 2007 by the Minister of State for Policing in consultation with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities, as required by the Police and Justice Act 2006.

The CEO is eligible to receive a performance-related bonus at the discretion of the NPIA board. The board recommended that the CEO be awarded a bonus for the year 2008-09, but this was declined by the CEO.

### Radicalism: Civil Servants

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants have been investigated for possible links to violent extremism in each year since 2001. [305347]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]:* This information is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

### Wickham Research Laboratories

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to announce who has been chosen to conduct the special investigation of animal testing at Wickham Laboratories; and when he expects this investigation to be completed. [305000]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]:* The review will be led by a superintending inspector from the Home Office Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate who will be assisted by two independent experts. I anticipate that the review will be completed early in 2010.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Emissions

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the latest estimate is of UK net carbon dioxide emissions in 2008 *(a)* with and *(b)* without the inclusion of carbon trading. [303528]

**Joan Ruddock:** Provisional estimates of 2008 emissions were published on 26 March 2009. These figures estimate that:

UK emissions for carbon dioxide were 531.8 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent ($MtCO_2e$)

including for the effect of the EU Emissions Trading System, UK carbon dioxide emissions in 2008 were estimated to be 511.4 $MtCO_2e$

The equivalent figures for all greenhouse gases are as follows:

excluding the EU Emissions Trading System = 623.8 $MtCO_2e$

including the EU Emissions Trading System = 603.4 $MtCO_2e$

The most recent final figures are for estimates of 2007 emissions. These were published on 3 February 2009. Estimates for only carbon dioxide emissions are:

excluding EU Emissions Trading System = 542.6 $MtCO_2e$

including EU Emissions Trading System = 516.9 $MtCO_2e$

It may be helpful to know emissions of all greenhouse gases. Again these are final 2007 figures:

excluding EU Emissions Trading System = 636.6 $MtCO_2e$

including EU Emissions Trading System = 611.0 $MtCO_2e$

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [303597]

**Joan Ruddock:** There are nine full-time equivalent press officers who are employed and work for DECC. These include:

One Head of News (SCS)

Two Chief Press Officers (G7)

Three Senior Press Officers (SIO)

Three Press Officers (IO)

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302415]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change was created on 3 October 2008, and its official corporate website was launched on 23 February 2009:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/

The cost of developing and maintaining the Department of Energy and Climate Change's website in the 2008-09 financial year was: £58,874.00

The forecast costs of maintaining websites within the Secretary of State's responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year are: £883,726.

This includes the forecast costs for the Department's corporate site:

www.decc.gov.uk

Act on $CO_2$:

http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/actonco2/home.html

the Government's energy and climate change advice website to help people reduce their carbon footprint.

ActOnCopenhagen:

http://www.actoncopenhagen.decc.gov.uk/en/

HMG's official website for activities in the lead up to and during global climate change negotiations in Copenhagen, December 2009, as well as the websites listed as follows:

https://www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk/

(National Policy Statements consultation site)

www.sedbuk.com

(Boiler efficiency database)

www.HFccat-demo.org

(Hydrogen, Fuel Cells and Carbon Abatement Technologies Demonstration Programme)

www.bioenergycapitalgrants.org.uk

(The Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme)

http://chp.decc.gov.uk/cms/

(CHP Focus – Combined Heat and Power)

http://www.chpqa.com/

(Quality assurance for Combined Heat and Power)

www.corwm.org.uk

(Committee on Radioactive Waste Management)

www.rimnet.gov.uk

www.ensg.gov.uk

(Electricity Networks Strategy Group)

www.og.decc.gov.uk

(Oil and Gas Portal)

https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/EIP/pages/help.htm

(DECC Energy Infrastructure Portal)

www.planningrenewables.org.uk

Planning Renewables website

www.renewables-advisory-board.org.uk

(The Renewables Advisory Board (RAB))

www.ukrenewables.com

(DECC's UK Renewables Service)

www.avoid.uk.net

(website providing key advice to the UK Government on avoiding dangerous climate change)

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/home

www.bigenergyshift.org.uk

www.decc.gov.uk/offsetting

## Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online-only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301549]

**Joan Ruddock:** In the past 12 months, the Department did not externally advertise any roles on an online-only basis.

Applicants without access to the internet can telephone to request a hard copy of an application pack.

## Departmental Research

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the safety of (i) emissions from and (ii) ash by-products of energy from waste incinerators in the last 10 years. [303976]

**Dan Norris:** I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA is continually evaluating research relevant to energy from waste as our departmental priority is to secure a healthy environment in which we and future generations can prosper. In particular over the last ten years, we have commissioned and evaluated the following research:

Emissions (i) "Emissions from waste management: framework for assessment of data quality and research needs"; the project is still underway.

Emissions and ash by-products (i) and (ii) 'Review of Environmental and Health Effects of Waste Management: Municipal Solid Waste and Similar Wastes'; published in 2004.

In May 2002 the Environment Agency produced its own report on solid residues from municipal incineration. It has not commissioned outside bodies to carry out research in this area. It evaluates reports that come to light in order to keep abreast of developments but does not maintain a list of these.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has commissioned no research in this area in the last ten years but recently reviewed the latest research on the health effects of modern municipal waste incinerators. It concludes that while it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects completely, any potential damage from modern, well-run and regulated incinerators is likely to be so small that it would be undetectable. Moreover, it recommends that since any possible health effects of emissions are likely to be very small, studies of public health around modern, well managed municipal waste incinerators are not recommended. A statement can be found on the HPA's website.

## Electricity: Pensions

**Mr. Russell Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the Government Actuary's Department's recent report on the stewardship of electricity sector pension schemes; and what consideration he has given to bringing forward measures to enable Ofgem to regulate in this area. [302557]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Government Actuary's Department's report was commissioned by Ofgem as part of its review of compliance with its price control pension principles. The report fed in to Ofgem's fifth distribution price control review, the final decision on which was published on 7 December 2009:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx?docid=346&refer=rNetworks/ElecDist/PriceCntrls/DPCR5

We have no plans to bring forward measures to change Ofgem's role regarding pensions.

## Energy: Housing

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what expenditure his Department expects to incur on the Pay as You Save pilots in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* subsequent years. [303512]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Home Energy PAYS pilots have a budget of £4 million in total: £2 million in 2009-10 and £2 million in 2010-11. The pilots end in April 2011 and therefore there is no budget in subsequent years. The administration costs of the pilot are being covered by our delivery partners, and they will cover these costs for the duration of the PAYS arrangements.

## Energy: Prices

**Mr. Russell Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent representations he has made to Ofgem on the fifth Distribution Price Control Review; and if he will make a statement; [302555]

(2) with reference to the fifth Distribution Price Control Review, what assessment he has made of the effect a settlement below that requested by the distribution network operators would have on the level of economic growth; [302556]

(3) with reference to the fifth Distribution Price Control Review, what assessment he has made of the effect a settlement below that requested by the distribution network operators would have on the connection of new onshore renewables to the National Grid and the achievement of climate change targets; [302558]

(4) with reference to the fifth Distribution Price Control Review, what assessment he has made of the effect a settlement below that requested by the distribution network operators would have on *(a)* maintaining secure energy supplies and *(b)* the standard of customer service, particularly in rural areas; [302563]

(5) with reference to the fifth Distribution Price Control Review, what estimate he has made of the effect a settlement below that requested by the distribution network operators would have on the number of highly skilled jobs. [302564]

**Mr. Kidney:** Ministers and officials meet with Ofgem representatives and distribution network operators representatives regularly to discuss a wide range of issues, including the fifth Distribution Price Control Review (DPCR5).

As economic regulator of the electricity industry, it falls to Ofgem to administer the distribution price control regime. Ofgem published its final decision on DPCR5 on 7 December, after a period of consultation with DNOs and other interested parties.

The price control regime ensures DNOs can, through efficient operation, earn a fair return after capital and operating costs while limiting costs passed on to customers. DNOs can reject a price control, in which case it will be considered by the Competition Commission.

### National Nuclear Policy Statement

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost has been of each regional hearing organised by his Department since publication of the National Nuclear Policy Statement on 9 November 2009 inviting residents to have their say on proposals to build a new nuclear power station in their area; how many departmental officials attended each meeting; how many incurred overnight stays in each case, and at what cost; and whether provision has been made to defray the costs of interested parties in travelling and staying overnight to enable attendance at such meetings. [304415]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Planning Act 2008 requires the Government to consult the public and stakeholders on the draft National Policy Statements (NPSs) before they can be designated. The consultation is ongoing and therefore we do not yet have detailed costs associated with each event. We estimate that, on average, each of the 10 events, including design, strategic planning, production, marketing, staffing and transport, will cost in the region of about £60,000. Between four and seven DECC staff attend each event over the course of each three-day exhibition (open from 8 am to 8 pm) and public meeting. Accommodation and subsistence costs are not finalised at this early stage in the consultation and we would expect that these will vary depending on the location. However, we would expect all these costs to be within civil service guidelines, with hotels costing around £60 per person per night for example.

The primary target audience of the Nuclear NPS events is the local community, therefore we would not expect members of the public to incur accommodation costs and only limited travel costs to attend the events. Venues were chosen to be as close to the proposed nuclear power station site. We took into account a number of principles which helped us in choosing the exhibition location . These included:

Journey time to proposed site

Historic evidence of attendance levels to similar consultations

Existence of multiple proposed sites in one area

A wide range of venues were considered for each location. Suggested venues have been recommended by local authorities and energy companies (who have undertaken similar events in the past) and we have endeavoured to use as many of these recommendations as possible. The priority was finding the largest possible venues, nearest to the site.

### Renewable Energy: Fuel Oil

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the extent to which greater use of recovered fuel oil for incineration by industry could reduce the use of fossil fuels. [304301]

**Dan Norris:** I have been asked to reply.

Waste Strategy 2007 recognises that recovered fuel oil (RFO), which is part-processed waste oil, may be used as a fuel substitute, and the energy in the RFO recovered. This can lead to a reduction in reliance on fossil fuels. Under the revised Waste Framework Directive the recovery of energy from waste is placed fourth in the waste hierarchy, which shall apply as a priority order, and above waste disposal which includes incineration without energy recovery. The regeneration of waste oil into base oil by re-refining is classed as recycling and is placed third in the waste hierarchy.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Children: Day Care

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places have been created in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [301932]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information on the number of child care places available in England and the North East from 1997 to 2009 is shown in the following table. Information is not available below local authority level.

*Table 1: Number[1] of childcare places[2] for children under eight years of age: position at 31 March each year, 1997 to 2009*

| | England | North East region |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1,230,400 | [3] |
| 1998 | 1,326,100 | [3] |
| 1999 | 1,480,400 | 68,300 |

*Table 1: Number[1] of childcare places[2] for children under eight years of age: position at 31 March each year, 1997 to 2009*

| | England | North East region |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 1,569,200 | 68,800 |
| 2001 | 1,670,600 | 67,700 |
| 2002 | [4] | [4] |
| 2003 | 1,281,300 | 51,600 |
| 2004 | 1,415,700 | 60,500 |
| 2005 | 1,468,300 | 62,400 |
| 2006 | 1,537,800 | 66,600 |
| 2007 | 1,551,100 | 69,800 |
| 2008 | 1,549,100 | 68,100 |
| 2009 | 1,346,100 | 54,100 |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] 1997-2001 Data Source: Children's Daycare Facilities Survey—total includes day nurseries, playgroups and pre-schools, childminders, out of school clubs, and holiday schemes.
2003-08 Data Source: Ofsted—total includes full day care, sessional day care, childminders, out of school clubs, and creche day care.
2009 Data Source: Ofsted—total includes childminders, childcare on non-domestic premises, childcare on domestic premises and home child carer.

[4] Data not collected due to transfer of responsibility from LAs to Ofsted.

[5] Accurate local authority level information is not available.

Local authorities were responsible for the registration and inspection of children's day care facilities from 1997 to 2001. Responsibility transferred to Ofsted from 2003 and correspondingly, the categories of childcare changed from day nurseries, playgroups and pre-schools, childminders, out of school clubs and holiday schemes to full and sessional day care, childminders, out of school clubs, and crèche day care. Therefore, data from 2003 are not directly comparable with data prior to 2002.

Data were not collected for 2002 during the transfer of responsibility to Ofsted. Due to changes in legislation Ofsted have changed the way they publish statistics on registered childcare providers and places. From 1 September 2008, Ofsted started to record providers in line with new legal requirements using the categories of childminders, childcare on domestic premises, and childcare on non-domestic premises. This change means that the total numbers of providers and places (excluding childminding) shown in its returns up to and including August 2008 and from December 2008 onwards (the last under the old system, and the first under the new system) are not directly comparable.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many registered childminders there were in each local authority area in the South East in each quarter of each year since 2003. [304283]

**Dawn Primarolo:** For information on the number of registered childminders in each local authority in each quarter of each year from March 2003 to March 2009, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 912W.

Information from June 2009 is included in the following table.

*Number[1] of registered childminders in each local authority in the south-east: Position as at each quarter, 2009*

| Local authority, as at end | June | September |
|---|---|---|
| Bracknell Forest | 300 | 300 |
| Brighton and Hove | 300 | 300 |
| Buckinghamshire | 800 | 800 |
| East Sussex | 400 | 400 |
| Hampshire | 2,200 | 2,200 |
| Isle of Wight | 80 | 80 |
| Kent | 1,600 | 1,600 |
| Medway | 400 | 400 |
| Milton Keynes | 400 | 400 |
| Oxfordshire | 900 | 900 |
| Portsmouth | 200 | 200 |
| Reading | 200 | 200 |
| Slough | 200 | 200 |
| Southampton | 200 | 200 |
| Surrey | 1,700 | 1,700 |
| West Berkshire | 300 | 300 |
| West Sussex | 1,100 | 1,100 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 200 | 200 |
| Wokingham | 300 | 300 |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

*Source:*
Ofsted

## Children: Social Services

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will amend the Integrated Children's System to enable a pre-birth plan to be changed after birth. [300304]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Statutory guidance contained in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' sets out the processes for managing individual cases when there are concerns about the welfare of a child, including of an unborn child. It also sets out the minimum time periods for reviewing a plan. The local authority should record the plan electronically in its IT system, known as the Integrated Children's System, and update the plan as appropriate following a review. The same processes apply when there are concerns about an unborn child: any pre-birth plan will need to be reviewed following the baby's birth. When a new plan has been developed, the previous plan should be archived in order to provide an audit trail of the reasons for changes agreed at each stage of the decision making process.

## Departmental Finance

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the Home Department's together we can end violence against women and girls strategy, how much his Department plans to spend on family intervention projects in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* each of the subsequent three years; and from what budget such expenditure will be drawn. [305311]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government allocated £35.5 million for family intervention projects in 2009-10 and are planning to allocate £57 million Government funding in 2010-11. Expenditure is being drawn from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Communities and

Local Government and Department of Health budgets. In addition there is anticipated match funding of £9.5 million from registered social landlords, housing associations and youth offending teams.

Departmental budgets, and therefore the funding for family intervention projects, have yet to be determined beyond March 2011. Decisions will be made following spending review discussions once the Department's settlement is agreed.

## Secondary Education: Gifted Children

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of secondary school pupils are participating in the young, gifted and talented programme in each local authority area. [303732]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department does not collect data about participation in gifted and talented programmes. Through the School Census schools are asked to confirm the number of gifted and talented pupils they have identified. The following table shows the number and percentage of children identified as gifted and talented by LA for each Government office region in the January 2009 census.

*Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools[1, 2], number of pupils who are gifted and talented[3] as at January 2009 In England by local authority and Government office region*

| | Maintained primary | | | State-funded secondary | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total pupils | Gifted and talented | Percentage | Total pupils | Gifted and talented | Percentage |
| *England* | 4,074,890 | 353,210 | 8.7 | 3,271,090 | 466,820 | 14.3 |
| | | | | | | |
| *North East* | 203,810 | 18,110 | 8.9 | 170,720 | 22,100 | 12.9 |
| Darlington | 8,790 | 340 | 3.9 | 5,980 | 830 | 13.9 |
| Durham | 39,570 | 3,260 | 8.2 | 30,910 | 3,450 | 11.2 |
| Gateshead | 15,300 | 1,610 | 10.5 | 12,650 | 1,590 | 12.6 |
| Hartlepool | 8,660 | 970 | 11.2 | 6,340 | 1,070 | 16.9 |
| Middlesbrough | 13,570 | 1,120 | 8.2 | 8,530 | 1,040 | 12.2 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 19,080 | 1,830 | 9.6 | 16,250 | 1,890 | 11.6 |
| North Tyneside | 15,690 | 1,460 | 9.3 | 13,390 | 1,250 | 9.3 |
| Northumberland | 19,210 | 1,010 | 5.3 | 28,380 | 3,610 | 12.7 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 12,510 | 1,310 | 10.4 | 9,420 | 1,650 | 17.5 |
| South Tyneside | 11,990 | 960 | 8.0 | 9,260 | 1,830 | 19.7 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 16,950 | 1,710 | 10.1 | 11,700 | 1,280 | 11.0 |
| Sunderland | 22,500 | 2,530 | 11.2 | 17,910 | 2,590 | 14.5 |
| | | | | | | |
| *North West* | 574,500 | 48,950 | 8.5 | 438,860 | 59,040 | 13.5 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 14,240 | 790 | 5.5 | 9,430 | 1,430 | 15.1 |
| Blackpool | 11,290 | 1,100 | 9.8 | 8,180 | 640 | 7.9 |
| Bolton | 25,230 | 1,840 | 7.3 | 18,900 | 2,900 | 15.3 |
| Bury | 16,080 | 360 | 2.2 | 11,210 | 1,400 | 12.5 |
| Cheshire | 51,850 | 4,010 | 7.7 | 44,480 | 6,280 | 14.1 |
| Cumbria | 37,900 | 2,310 | 6.1 | 34,100 | 4,490 | 13.2 |
| Halton | 9,960 | 600 | 6.0 | 7,590 | 1,070 | 14.1 |
| Knowsley | 14,380 | 1,080 | 7.5 | 7,930 | 880 | 11.1 |
| Lancashire | 89,810 | 12,600 | 14.0 | 70,180 | 11,000 | 15.7 |
| Liverpool | 35,690 | 2,650 | 7.4 | 31,220 | 4,220 | 13.5 |
| Manchester | 40,840 | 3,910 | 9.6 | 23,550 | 3,250 | 13.8 |
| Oldham | 23,330 | 1,020 | 4.4 | 16,120 | 1,830 | 11.3 |
| Rochdale | 19,340 | 1,100 | 5.7 | 13,030 | 1,270 | 9.7 |
| Salford | 18,990 | 1,310 | 6.9 | 11,170 | 1,080 | 9.6 |
| Sefton | 21,860 | 2,050 | 9.4 | 19,260 | 2,130 | 11.1 |
| St. Helens | 14,730 | 1,410 | 9.6 | 10,940 | 1,620 | 14.8 |
| Stockport | 22,470 | 1,500 | 6.7 | 14,810 | 1,630 | 11.0 |
| Tameside | 19,650 | 1,870 | 9.5 | 14,620 | 2,340 | 16.0 |
| Trafford | 19,330 | 800 | 4.1 | 16,330 | 1,810 | 11.1 |
| Warrington | 17,190 | 1,810 | 10.5 | 13,550 | 2,080 | 15.4 |
| Wigan | 25,210 | 2,280 | 9.0 | 19,530 | 2,530 | 12.9 |
| Wirral | 25,150 | 2,560 | 10.2 | 22,750 | 3,180 | 14.0 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | 433,590 | 36,050 | 8.3 | 334,760 | 42,070 | 12.6 |
| Barnsley | 19,220 | 1,180 | 6.1 | 13,240 | 2,010 | 15.1 |
| Bradford | 52,950 | 5,320 | 10.0 | 34,110 | 3,390 | 9.9 |
| Calderdale | 18,520 | 1,850 | 10.0 | 15,400 | 2,430 | 15.7 |
| Doncaster | 25,940 | 2,130 | 8.2 | 20,670 | 2,060 | 10.0 |

*Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools[1] [2], number of pupils who are gifted and talented[3] as at January 2009 In England by local authority and Government office region*

| | *Maintained primary* | | | *State-funded secondary* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total pupils* | *Gifted and talented* | *Percentage* | *Total pupils* | *Gifted and talented* | *Percentage* |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 24,610 | 1,710 | 7.0 | 22,650 | 2,630 | 11.6 |
| Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 21,070 | 2,360 | 11.2 | 14,130 | 1,580 | 11.2 |
| Kirklees | 35,720 | 2,820 | 7.9 | 26,000 | 3,690 | 14.2 |
| Leeds | 60,870 | 4,280 | 7.0 | 46,420 | 6,000 | 12.9 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 13,330 | 1,060 | 8.0 | 9,860 | 1,160 | 11.7 |
| North Lincolnshire | 13,560 | 980 | 7.2 | 10,150 | 630 | 6.2 |
| North Yorkshire | 42,960 | 2,550 | 5.9 | 40,530 | 6,140 | 15.1 |
| Rotherham | 22,780 | 2,250 | 9.9 | 19,590 | 2,510 | 12.8 |
| Sheffield[3] | 41,630 | 3,730 | 9.0 | 30,830 | 3,590 | 11.7 |
| Wakefield | 27,590 | 2,570 | 9.3 | 21,370 | 2,570 | 12.0 |
| York | 12,840 | 1,270 | 9.9 | 9,810 | 1,670 | 17.0 |
| | | | | | | |
| *East Midlands* | 351,160 | 31,360 | 8.9 | 294,390 | 40,780 | 13.9 |
| Derby | 21,470 | 1,930 | 9.0 | 16,330 | 2,360 | 14.5 |
| Derbyshire | 59,280 | 4,070 | 6.9 | 49,270 | 7,300 | 14.8 |
| Leicester | 27,880 | 2,710 | 9.7 | 18,110 | 2,090 | 11.6 |
| Leicestershire | 47,130 | 6,560 | 13.9 | 45,670 | 5,870 | 12.9 |
| Lincolnshire | 50,790 | 4,350 | 8.6 | 48,830 | 8,140 | 16.7 |
| Northamptonshire | 56,080 | 4,300 | 7.7 | 47,050 | 6,810 | 14.5 |
| Nottingham | 23,490 | 2,470 | 10.5 | 14,370 | 1,460 | 10.2 |
| Nottinghamshire | 62,520 | 4,740 | 7.6 | 52,410 | 6,530 | 12.5 |
| Rutland | 2,520 | 250 | 9.7 | 2,360 | 210 | 8.9 |
| | | | | | | |
| *West Midlands* | 459,760 | 38,400 | 8.4 | 365,680 | 52,900 | 14.5 |
| Birmingham | 101,190 | 8,440 | 8.3 | 69,260 | 10,140 | 14.6 |
| Coventry | 27,290 | 2,730 | 10.0 | 20,660 | 3,360 | 16.3 |
| Dudley | 26,830 | 2,280 | 8.5 | 19,890 | 2,790 | 14.0 |
| Herefordshire | 12,520 | 1,000 | 8.0 | 10,020 | 1,270 | 12.7 |
| Sandwell | 30,020 | 2,160 | 7.2 | 20,320 | 2,580 | 12.7 |
| Shropshire | 20,950 | 2,000 | 9.5 | 17,250 | 2,160 | 12.5 |
| Solihull | 19,110 | 1,260 | 6.6 | 16,840 | 2,420 | 14.3 |
| Staffordshire | 61,140 | 2,840 | 4.6 | 58,070 | 6,580 | 11.3 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 20,780 | 1,880 | 9.0 | 13,440 | 1,690 | 12.5 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 14,120 | 1,510 | 10.7 | 11,820 | 2,210 | 18.7 |
| Walsall | 25,560 | 2,140 | 8.4 | 21,010 | 3,280 | 15.6 |
| Warwickshire | 39,800 | 4,170 | 10.5 | 33,910 | 6,280 | 18.5 |
| Wolverhampton | 21,970 | 2,020 | 9.2 | 15,660 | 2,610 | 16.7 |
| Worcestershire | 38,480 | 3,980 | 10.3 | 37,540 | 5,550 | 14.8 |
| | | | | | | |
| *East Of England* | 429,860 | 38,230 | 8.9 | 389,280 | 54,650 | 14.0 |
| Bedfordshire | 24,810 | 1,980 | 8.0 | 37,240 | 4,430 | 11.9 |
| Cambridgeshire | 43,740 | 4,290 | 9.8 | 32,480 | 4,580 | 14.1 |
| Essex | 104,360 | 8,910 | 8.5 | 89,220 | 10,990 | 12.3 |
| Hertfordshire | 92,250 | 7,630 | 8.3 | 80,320 | 12,520 | 15.6 |
| Luton | 18,810 | 1,540 | 8.2 | 12,250 | 1,680 | 13.7 |
| Norfolk | 58,860 | 6,010 | 10.2 | 49,770 | 7,430 | 14.9 |
| Peterborough | 15,590 | 1,180 | 7.6 | 13,210 | 2,730 | 20.6 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 13,410 | 2,090 | 15.5 | 12,9[illegible]0 | 2,290 | 17.7 |
| Suffolk | 44,190 | 3,230 | 7.3 | 52,920 | 7,230 | 13.7 |
| Thurrock | 13,830 | 1,380 | 9.9 | 8,950 | 770 | 8.6 |
| | | | | | | |
| *London* | 633,180 | 51,400 | 8.1 | 446,510 | 62,890 | 14.1 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Inner London* | 226,670 | 19,310 | 8.5 | 138,670 | 17,410 | 12.6 |
| Camden | 11,370 | 1,160 | 10.2 | 9,990 | 1,180 | 11.8 |
| City of London | 240 | 20 | 6.7 | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| Hackney | 17,750 | 1,610 | 9.1 | 8,070 | 1,230 | 15.2 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 9,690 | 920 | 9.5 | 6,890 | 1,070 | 15.5 |

*Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools[1, 2], number of pupils who are gifted and talented[3] as at January 2009 In England by local authority and Government office region*

| | *Maintained primary* | | | *State-funded secondary* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total pupils* | *Gifted and talented* | *Percentage* | *Total pupils* | *Gifted and talented* | *Percentage* |
| Haringey | 21,600 | 1,500 | 6.9 | 13,090 | 1,930 | 14.8 |
| Islington | 13,670 | 1,200 | 8.7 | 8,200 | 850 | 10.3 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 6,890 | 600 | 8.8 | 3,410 | 450 | 13.2 |
| Lambeth | 20,460 | 1,610 | 7.9 | 9,480 | 1,290 | 13.6 |
| Lewisham | 21,360 | 1,700 | 8.0 | 13,720 | 1,760 | 12.8 |
| Newham | 30,610 | 2,680 | 8.8 | 18,220 | 2,100 | 11.6 |
| Southwark | 21,840 | 1,520 | 7.0 | 13,100 | 1,270 | 9.7 |
| Tower Hamlets | 22,730 | 2,200 | 9.7 | 14,490 | 1,840 | 12.7 |
| Wandsworth | 17,560 | 1,640 | 9.3 | 11,410 | 1,340 | 11.7 |
| Westminster | 10,900 | 940 | 8.6 | 8,600 | 1,090 | 12.7 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Outer London* | 406,520 | 32,100 | 7.9 | 307,850 | 45,480 | 14.8 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 19,500 | 930 | 4.8 | 12,920 | 1,230 | 9.5 |
| Barnet | 26,660 | 2,570 | 9.6 | 21,240 | 3,630 | 17.1 |
| Bexley | 20,290 | 1,980 | 9.8 | 19,980 | 3,510 | 17.6 |
| Brent | 23,770 | 1,630 | 6.8 | 18,070 | 2,450 | 13.5 |
| Bromley | 23,570 | 1,570 | 6.7 | 22,470 | 3,800 | 16.9 |
| Croydon | 29,250 | 1,600 | 5.5 | 20,660 | 2,790 | 13.5 |
| Ealing | 27,110 | 1,330 | 4.9 | 17,280 | 1,850 | 10.7 |
| Enfield | 28,090 | 2,430 | 8.7 | 22,090 | 5,090 | 23.0 |
| Greenwich | 21,370 | 1,640 | 7.7 | 14,590 | 1,820 | 12.5 |
| Harrow | 19,620 | 1,680 | 8.6 | 10,000 | 1,700 | 17.0 |
| Havering | 19,180 | 2,270 | 11.8 | 16,620 | 2,120 | 12.7 |
| Hillingdon | 24,960 | 2,290 | 9.2 | 18,400 | 2,860 | 15.5 |
| Hounslow | 19,320 | 1,620 | 8.4 | 16,560 | 1,930 | 11.7 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 11,830 | 1,110 | 9.4 | 9,780 | 1,230 | 12.5 |
| Merton | 15,660 | 1,310 | 8.4 | 8,490 | 1,180 | 13.9 |
| Redbridge | 25,550 | 2,260 | 8.8 | 21,450 | 3,310 | 15.4 |
| Richmond upon Thames[4] | 13,530 | 1,120 | 8.3 | 6,690 | 850 | 12.6 |
| Sutton | 14,780 | 810 | 5.5 | 16,670 | 2,220 | 13.3 |
| Waltham Forest | 22,480 | 1,930 | 8.6 | 13,890 | 1,920 | 13.8 |
| | | | | | | |
| *South East* | 622,050 | 57,960 | 9.3 | 507,570 | 81,160 | 16.0 |
| Bracknell Forest | 8,920 | 680 | 7.6 | 6,260 | 840 | 13.4 |
| Brighton and Hove | 17,230 | 2,140 | 12.4 | 12,110 | 2,160 | 17.8 |
| Buckinghamshire | 39,770 | 3,930 | 9.9 | 34,590 | 7,130 | 20.6 |
| East Sussex | 35,080 | 3,770 | 10.7 | 27,660 | 4,150 | 15.0 |
| Hampshire | 94,520 | 10,780 | 11.4 | 70,380 | 9,080 | 12.9 |
| Isle of Wight | 6,260 | 720 | 11.5 | 11,570 | 1,240 | 10.7 |
| Kent | 108,670 | 12,350 | 11.4 | 100,150 | 18,390 | 18.4 |
| Medway | 22,100 | 2,120 | 9.6 | 19,640 | 4,040 | 20.6 |
| Milton Keynes | 21,500 | 1,390 | 6.4 | 16,200 | 2,250 | 13.9 |
| Oxfordshire | 47,140 | 3,640 | 7.7 | 36,550 | 6,370 | 17.4 |
| Portsmouth | 13,790 | 1,910 | 13.8 | 9,160 | 1,080 | 11.8 |
| Reading | 10,810 | 590 | 5.4 | 6,160 | 1,150 | 18.6 |
| Slough | 12,420 | 840 | 6.7 | 9,810 | 860 | 8.8 |
| Southampton | 16,020 | 1,700 | 10.6 | 10,670 | 1,290 | 12.1 |
| Surrey | 78,660 | 3,390 | 4.3 | 59,130 | 7,070 | 11.9 |
| West Berkshire | 12,230 | 1,450 | 11.8 | 12,140 | 2,230 | 18.4 |
| West Sussex | 56,080 | 5,120 | 9.1 | 45,000 | 8,770 | 19.5 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 8,480 | 530 | 6.2 | 10,130 | 1,160 | 11.4 |
| Wokingham | 12,380 | 920 | 7.4 | 10,280 | 1,910 | 18.6 |
| | | | | | | |
| *South West* | 366,980 | 32,750 | 8.9 | 323,300 | 51,240 | 15.8 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 11,820 | 660 | 5.6 | 12,440 | 1,420 | 11.4 |
| Bournemouth | 10,260 | 1,100 | 10.7 | 9,690 | 1,810 | 18.7 |
| Bristol, City of | 29,090 | 2,640 | 9.1 | 17,220 | 1,780 | 10.3 |
| Cornwall | 37,700 | 3,010 | 8.0 | 31,910 | 4,700 | 14.7 |
| Devon | 51,900 | 5,460 | 10.5 | 42,800 | 6,840 | 16.0 |

*Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools[1, 2], number of pupils who are gifted and talented[3] as at January 2009 in England by local authority and Government office region*

| | Maintained primary | | | State-funded secondary | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total pupils* | *Gifted and talented* | *Percentage* | *Total pupils* | *Gifted and talented* | *Percentage* |
| Dorset | 23,830 | 1,580 | 6.6 | 29,690 | 3,310 | 11.1 |
| Gloucestershire | 41,840 | 3,930 | 9.4 | 39,910 | 6,310 | 15.8 |
| Isles of Scilly | 270 | 10 | 2.6 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| North Somerset | 15,120 | 1,200 | 7.9 | 12,770 | 2,460 | 19.3 |
| Plymouth | 18,480 | 1,870 | 10.1 | 18,050 | 2,930 | 16.2 |
| Poole | 10,120 | 780 | 7.7 | 8,420 | 1,980 | 23.5 |
| Somerset | 35,460 | 3,570 | 10.1 | 31,520 | 6,510 | 20.6 |
| South Gloucestershire | 20,910 | 1,470 | 7.0 | 18,230 | 2,710 | 14.9 |
| Swindon | 16,290 | 1,790 | 11.0 | 12,390 | 1,810 | 14.6 |
| Torbay | 9,520 | 1,080 | 11.3 | 8,700 | 1,800 | 20.7 |
| Wiltshire | 34,380 | 2,620 | 7.6 | 29,580 | 4,900 | 16.5 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies
[3] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[4] No schools of this type.
*Note:*
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10
*Source:*
School Census

### Youth Opportunity Fund: Youth Capital Fund

**Dr. Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people received funding from the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund in the latest period for which figures are available. [304991]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In 2008-09 (the latest period for which figures are available) a total of 905,227 young people were either involved in or benefited from use of the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds, with 14,163 grants approved during that period. These latest figures mean that almost 2.5 million young people have been involved in or benefited from these Funds in the first three years of operation.

## JUSTICE

### Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people worked for the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity in each of the last three years. [304319]

**Mr. Straw:** The independent Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity, chaired by Baroness Neuberger, did not exist before April 2009 and is now due to produce its report and conclude its work in early 2010. Therefore, the panel will only be operational for less than a calendar year.

The Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity has no separate support. It is being supported by officials from within the Constitution and Judiciary Division of the Ministry of Justice, within existing budgets. None of the officials work full-time for or on the advisory panel, but seven spend significant time on it.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity cost in each of the last three years. [304320]

**Mr. Straw:** The independent Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity, chaired by Baroness Neuberger, did not exist before April 2009 and is now due to produce its report and conclude its work in early 2010. Therefore, the panel will only be operational for less than a calendar year and so will not have ongoing annual running costs.

The costs of the panel, from April 2009 to the end of October, were £20,975, excluding secretariat staff costs.

### Crimes of Violence: Sentencing

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what sentencing guidance is provided to courts on crimes of violence with a homophobic motive. [304761]

**Claire Ward:** The Criminal Justice Act (CJA) 2003 (section 146) applies to cases where immediately before or during the offence the offender demonstrated hostility towards the victim based upon sexual orientation or disability, or to cases where the offence is motivated by hostility towards persons who are of a particular sexual orientation or who have a disability. Courts must treat those circumstances as an aggravating factor, and sentencers must state in open court that the offence was so aggravated.

It is the responsibility of the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council to issue guidelines to the courts. The council's guideline on seriousness draws the courts' attention to the statutory provision for aggravation in such circumstances.

### Driving Offences

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people *(a)* were convicted and *(b)* served a custodial sentence for drink-driving offences in each police authority area in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [304785]

**Claire Ward:** Court proceedings data are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

### EU Law

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* statutory instruments and *(b)* other regulations his Department has brought forward to meet obligations arising from EU law in this Parliament. [304182]

**Mr. Wills:** The Statutory Instruments Registrar has maintained central records of statutory instruments made under specific powers, including those in the European Communities Act 1972, since 2001. There is no central record of which statutory instruments were made using other powers in order to meet obligations arising from EU law, and it would be disproportionately costly to create such a record now. There is also no central record of "other regulations". Since 2001, the Ministry of Justice and its predecessor departments (the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Department for Constitutional Affairs) have been responsible for 17 statutory instruments made using the powers in the European Communities Act 1972. A list of those instruments is as follows:

| *SI No.* | *SI Title* |
|---|---|
| 2001/310 | European Communities (Matrimonial Jurisdiction and Judgments) Regulations 2001 |
| 2001/3928 | Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Authentic Instruments and Court Settlements) Order 2001 |
| 2001/3929 | Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Order 2001 |
| 2002/3061 | European Communities (Rights against Insurers) Regulations 2002 |
| 2004/293 | European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 |
| 2004/304 | European Communities (Definition of Treaties) (Common Electoral Principles) Order 2004 |
| 2004/1117 | European Communities (Services of Lawyers) (Amendment) Order 2004 |
| 2004/1374 | European Parliamentary Elections (Common Electoral Principles) Regulations 2004 |
| 2004/1628 | European Communities (Lawyer's Practice) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 |
| 2005/265 | European Communities (Jurisdiction and Judgments in Matrimonial and Parental Responsibility Matters) Regulations 2005 |
| 2007/1655 | Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Regulations 2007 |
| 2008/1647 | European Parliament (House of Lords Disqualification) Regulations 2008 |
| 2008/2986 | Law Applicable to Non-Contractual Obligations (England and Wales and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2008 |
| 2008/81 | European Communities (Lawyer's Practice and Services of Lawyers) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 |
| 2009/726 | European Parliamentary Elections (Franchise of Relevant Citizens of the Union) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 |
| 2009/3064 | Law Applicable to Contractual Obligations (England and Wales and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2009 |
| 2009/3131 | Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Regulations 2009 |

### Freedom of Information: Academies

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to bring forward proposals to apply to academy schools the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [305408]

**Mr. Wills:** On 16 July 2009, the Government published the response to its consultation on extending the Freedom of Information Act by means of a section 5 order. Academy schools were one of four bodies proposed for inclusion in this first section 5 order. These bodies are currently being consulted about their possible inclusion in a section 5 order and their responses will be taken into account in reaching a final decision on whether to designate them as public authorities under the Act.

Subject to the outcome of this consultation, the Government aim to bring forward a section 5 order early in the 2009-10 session.

### Hunting Act 2004: Prosecutions

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been at courts in Kent for offences under the Hunting Act 2004 in each year since the Act came into force. [304862]

**Claire Ward:** The Hunting Act 2004 came into force on 18 February 2005. For the period up to the end of 2007 (latest available) no prosecutions under the Act had been reported for the purposes of the Court Proceedings Database now held by the Ministry of Justice.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for offences under the Hunting Act 2004 in (a) 2008 and (b) 2009 to date. [304574]

**Mr. Straw:** Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

### Legal Aid

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much his Department received from each other Government Department from the legal aid impact test in each year since 1999; [304499]

(2) what proportion of money received from other Government Departments as a consequence of the legal aid impact test in the last 10 years has been allocated to the legal aid fund. [304500]

**Bridget Prentice:** Funding received from other Government Departments for legal aid since 2005-06, when the legal aid impact test was introduced, is shown in the following table.

All the funding received was allocated to the legal aid fund.

*Transfers from other Government Department*

| | | *£000* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | Department for Education and Skills  Adoption and Children Act 2002 | 1,868 |
| 2006-07 | Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs  Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 | 35 |
| 2007-08 | Home Office  Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 | 178 |

*Transfers from other Government Department*

| | | £000 |
|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | Home Office—Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 | 283 |
| | Home Office automatic deportation | 705 |
| | Department for Work and Pensions—Child Support Reform Funding | 3,200 |
| | Department of Health—Mental Health Tribunal funding | 790 |
| | Department for Work and Pensions—Employment and Support Allowance funding | 760 |
| 2009-10 | Home Office—Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 | 286 |
| | Department for Work and Pensions Employment and Support Allowance (jobcentre plus) Appeals Court funding | 4,600 |
| | Department for Work and Pensions—Child Support Reform Funding | 4,500 |
| | Department of Health—Mental Health Tribunal funding | 1,891 |
| | Home Office—European Environment Agency modelling | 135 |
| | Home Office—automatic deportation | 1,190 |
| | Total | 20,421 |

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment has been made of the efficacy of the legal aid impact test; [304501]

(2) what guidance his Department provides to other Departments on completing the legal aid impact test; and what models and analysis are used to assess the impact of proposed legislation on the legal aid budget; [304502]

(3) what research his Department has conducted into the effectiveness of the legal aid impact test. [304503]

**Bridget Prentice:** The legal aid and judicial impact test (LAJIT) was introduced in 2005 to formalise the arrangements under which Departments responsible for policy change had an obligation to meet the downstream costs falling to other agencies. The purpose of the LAJIT is to ensure that policy makers are aware of the potential impact that their proposals could have on legal aid and the courts so that resources can be better managed and, where appropriate, funding secured from other Government Departments. The Better Regulation Executive (BRE) has oversight of the overall Impact Assessment process across Government, and owns the relevant templates and guidance. Its guidance toolkit includes specific guidance for policy makers in Departments on the LAJIT.

The models and analysis used to assess the impact of proposed policy changes on the legal aid budget include identifying instances where legal aid could potentially be required and applying suitable unit costs. These estimates are agreed between the MoJ and the Department introducing the policy.

No formal research or assessment of the legal aid impact test has been carried out. The BRE is, however, revising the impact assessment template, toolkit and guidance in order to promote the continued improvement of impact assessments. This work is due for completion in the first half of 2010. As part of that project, Ministry of Justice officials are working with BRE to review the legal aid impact test.

## Legal Profession: Females

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress has been made on increasing the level of access of women to senior positions in the legal profession. [305002]

**Bridget Prentice:** The legal professions have attracted significant criticism over the years for not representing the diverse society in which we live. However, this criticism has put diversity at the top of the agenda for the professions and their response has been encouraging.

In 1998 women accounted for 53.6 per cent. of traineeships registered with the Law Society. This increased steadily to 63.4 per cent. in 2007-08. Therefore the focus of the debate has in many ways shifted towards ensuring that diversity is maintained at all levels within the professions and that progression is not in any way linked to an individual's gender.

In 1998 women made up 17 per cent. of partners at law firms in England and Wales, compared to 24 per cent. in 2008. In 1998 less than 6.5 per cent. of all Queen's Counsellors were female; a decade later this figure was 10 per cent. In addition to this progression in law it is important to remember that according to the Association of Women's Solicitors (AWS), women are more successful when working in-house in the legal departments of industrial and commercial companies; for example, women head the legal teams at BT, Serco and the London Development Agency.

A variety of programmes has been initiated in order to improve further women's career progression in the legal professions. Some 11 per cent. of judges and recorders in 1999 were female; today this figure is 19.4 per cent. The Ministry of Justice is devoting considerable effort and resources to continue to improve diversity in the judiciary. In April 2009 the Lord Chancellor established an independent Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity, to identify the barriers to progress on judicial diversity and make recommendations on how to make speedier and sustained progress to a more diverse judiciary at every level. The panel is expected to build upon the work that is already under way in this area, and to draw on lessons learned from current initiatives, including the Judicial Appointments Commission's Judicial Diversity Forum and the follow-up work from the Lord Chief Justice's conference on "A Judiciary for the 21st century".

In the private sector, the Association of Women's Solicitors, alongside major City law firms such as Lovells, have undertaken research which identifies that key barriers for women are that they do not have role models or are not self-promoting enough. Accordingly they are running 'soft skill' programmes to encourage women to acknowledge their own success more, and for 20 years AWS have run a mentoring scheme so that new entries into the profession can be paired with more experienced female lawyers in order to pass on experience and contacts. AWS is also at the centre of encouraging law firms to adapt flexible working, so that mothers can still have a legal career alongside their family lives.

Some 60 per cent. of new solicitors are now female. It may take up to a decade for these new lawyers to become partners in big city firms, and we look forward to more diversity at all levels of the legal profession in the future thanks to the progress we are making now.

## Legal Services Commission: North West

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations in the north-west procurement area received funds from the Legal Services Commission in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; and for each such organisation how many (i) asylum and (ii) non-asylum immigration cases they had in which Legal Services Commission funding started in each of those years. [304225]

**Bridget Prentice:** The information in Table 1 shows active legal aid providers in the north-west procurement area for financial years 2006-07, 2007/08 and 2008-09 and whether they delivered immigration and/or asylum work. Table 2 shows immigration and asylum cases started.

*Table 1*

| *Provider name* | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | | *2008-09* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Asylum* | *Non Asylum* | *Asylum* | *Non Asylum* | *Asylum* | *Non Asylum* |
| A S Law | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Beevers Solicitors | Yes | No | No | No | No | No |
| Binas Solicitors | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Birchfields Solicitors | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Bolton and District CAB | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Brighouse Wolff | No | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Bury Law Centre | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Clifford Johnston and Co | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| E Rex Makin and Co | No | No | No | No | Yes | No |
| Graham Leigh Pfeffer and Co | No | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Immigration Advisory Service | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Jackson and Canter LLP | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Liverpool Central Cab | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Mohammed and Co | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Molesworths Bright Clegg | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| National Youth Advocacy Service | Yes | No | No | No | No | No |
| North Manchester Law Centre | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Norton and Co | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Oldham Law Centre | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Oldham Metropolitan Citizens Advice Bureau | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Robert Lizar | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Rochdale Law Centre | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Rogerson Galvin | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| SFN Solicitors | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| South Manchester Law Centre | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Southerns | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| The Watson Ramsbottom Partnership | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Trafford Law Centre | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

*Table 2*

| *Firm* | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | | *2008-09* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Asylum* | *Non Asylum* | *Asylum* | *Non Asylum* | *Asylum* | *Non Asylum* |
| Firm 1 | 1,089 | 1,610 | 1,322 | 1,487 | 1,400 | 2,276 |
| Firm 2 | 346 | 517 | 512 | 285 | 502 | 221 |
| Firm 3 | 341 | 195 | 609 | 112 | 851 | 148 |
| Firm 4 | 280 | 322 | 393 | 168 | 349 | 142 |
| Firm 5 | 173 | 153 | 200 | 134 | 246 | 138 |
| Firm 6 | 46 | 183 | 74 | 119 | 72 | 149 |
| Firm 7 | 26 | 210 | 27 | 208 | 9 | 133 |
| Firm 8 | 69 | 137 | 74 | 107 | 119 | 88 |
| Firm 9 | 165 | 144 | 7 | 10 | 114 | 119 |
| Firm 10 | 54 | 134 | 53 | 117 | 42 | 157 |
| Firm 11 | 149 | 37 | 114 | 23 | 147 | 50 |
| Firm 12 | 76 | 99 | 48 | 82 | 70 | 74 |
| Firm 13 | 68 | 72 | 47 | 67 | 58 | 72 |
| Firm 14 | 40 | 104 | 51 | 108 | 16 | 51 |
| Firm 15 | 92 | 17 | 85 | 6 | 81 | 63 |
| Firm 16 | 73 | 68 | 26 | 42 | 55 | 61 |
| Firm 17 | 7 | 32 | 7 | 130 | 27 | 95 |
| Firm 18 | 56 | 80 | 30 | 35 | — | — |
| Firm 19 | 58 | — | 33 | 6 | 41 | 25 |
| Firm 20 | 87 | 49 | — | — | — | — |
| Firm 21 | 33 | 77 | 1 | 6 | — | — |
| Firm 22 | 66 | 4 | — | — | — | — |
| Firm 23 | 28 | 16 | 1 | 4 | — | — |
| Firm 24 | 42 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Firm 25 | 12 | 27 | — | — | — | — |
| Firm 26 | 12 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Firm 27 | — | — | — | — | — | 10 |
| Firm 28 | — | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| Firm 29 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | 3,488 | 4,290 | 3,714 | 3,256 | 4,200 | 4,072 |

Notes:

1. To protect commercial interests of the providers involved, the table has been anonymised and is not reflective of the order in Table 1.
2. NMS figures are the number of new matters reported at the end of the relevant financial year.
3. Some firms reported zero NMS though they held a contract in these categories of law.

## Monarchy: Succession

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what advice he has received on the compatibility with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 of *(a)* the rights of illegitimates in succession to the Crown and *(b)* the UK's interpretative declaration in respect of Articles 9 and 10 of the European Convention on the Legal Status of Children born out of Wedlock. [304268]

**Mr. Wills:** The Human Rights Act 1998 does not require the UK to change the law so as to admit illegitimate children to the line of succession to the Crown. The UK's interpretative declaration in respect of Articles 9 and 10 of the European Convention on the Legal Status of Children Born out of Wedlock is compatible with the Act.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what advice was given to Ministers on the effect of the Human Rights Act 1998 on the rights of illegitimates in succession to the Crown *(a)* prior to and *(b)* during the passage of the legislation through Parliament. [304269]

**Mr. Wills:** This information is not readily accessible and if it exists could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government has taken in respect of the UK's interpretative declaration in respect of Articles 9 and 10 of the European Convention on the Legal Status of Children born out of Wedlock in order to secure the conformity in UK law required by Article 1 of the Convention. [304270]

**Mr. Wills:** UK law already conforms with the provisions of the Convention and therefore no such steps are necessary. The declaration simply confirms our understanding of the effect of Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention.

## Offenders: Rehabilitation

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in each prison establishment participated in each type of offender behaviour programme in the latest 12 months for which figures are available. [303933]

**Mr. Straw:** The tables set out the number of starts by prisoners in 2008-09 for each type of accredited offending behaviour programme by prison. The figures have been drawn from administrative data systems and although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

*Number of starts for prisoners who undertook an accredited offending behaviour programme by prison in 2008-09*

| | Drugs and Alcohol | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment* | *12 Step (HMPS)*[1] | *12 Step (RAPt)* | *STOP* | *SDP* | *P-ASRO* | *ADTP* | *TC* | *TC (Women)* | *FOCUS*[2] | *P-ASRO (Women)* | *ARV* |
| Acklington | | | 36 | | | | | | | | |
| Albany | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Altcourse | | | 96 | 240 | | | | | | | |
| Ashwell | | | | | 72 | | | | | | |
| Aylesbury | | | | | 60 | | | | | | |
| Bedford | | | | 237 | | | | | | | |
| Belmarsh | | | | 120 | | | | | | | |
| Birmingham | | | | 120 | | | | | | | |
| Blakenhurst | | | | 240 | | | | | | | |
| Blundeston | | | | | 96 | | | | | | |
| Brinsford | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bristol | | | | 120 | | | | | | | |
| Brixton | | | | 108 | 96 | | | | | | |
| Buckley Hall | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bullingdon | | 96 | | 240 | | 64 | | | | | |
| Camp Hill | | | | | 96 | | | | | | |
| Cardiff | | | | | 84 | | | | | | |
| Castington | | | | 100 | | | | | | | |
| Channings Wood | | | | | | | 66 | | | | |
| Chelmsford | | | | | 60 | | | | | | 10 |
| Coldingley | | 100 | | | | | | | | | |
| Dartmoor | 35 | | | | 64 | | | | | | |
| Deerbolt | | | | | 80 | | | | | | |
| Doncaster | | | | 240 | | | | | | | |
| Dorchester | | | | 120 | | | | | | | |
| Dovegate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Downview | | | | 32 | | | | | | | |
| Drake Hall | | | | | | | | 16 | | | |
| Durham | | | | | 96 | | | | | | |
| Eastwood Park | | | | 96 | | | | | | | |
| Edmunds Hill | | | | | 96 | | | | | | |
| Elmley | | | | 120 | 96 | | | | | | |
| Erlestoke | 60 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Everthorpe | | 67 | | | 96 | | | | | | |
| Exeter | | | | 120 | | | | | | | |
| Featherstone | | | | | 96 | | | | | | |
| Ford | | | | 117 | | | | | | | |
| Forest Bank | | | | 204 | | | | | | | 10 |
| Foston Hall | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Frankland | | | | | | | | | 19 | | |
| Full Sutton | | | | | | | | | 18 | | |
| Garth | | | | | | | 80 | | | | |
| Gartree | | | 56 | | | | | | | | |

*Number of starts for prisoners who undertook an accredited offending behaviour programme by prison in 2008-09*

| | *Drugs and Alcohol* | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment* | *12 Step (HMPS)* | *12 Step (RAPt)* | *STOP* | *SDP* | *PASRO* | *ADTP* | *TC* | *TC (Women)* | *FOCUS* | *PASRO (Women)* | *ARV* |
| Glen Parva | — | — | — | 130 | 50 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gloucester | — | — | — | 120 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 10 |
| Guys Marsh | — | — | — | — | 96 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Haverigg | — | — | — | — | 96 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Hewell | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| High Down | — | — | — | 84 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Highpoint | — | — | 48 | — | 96 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Hindley | — | — | — | — | 60 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Hollesley Bay | — | — | — | 120 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Holloway | — | — | — | 120 | — | — | — | — | — | 10 | — |
| Holme House | — | — | — | 120 | — | — | 65 | — | — | — | — |
| Hull | — | — | — | 80 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Kingston | — | — | — | — | 24 | — | — | — | — | — | 10 |
| Kirkham | — | — | — | — | 96 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lancaster Castle | 64 | — | — | — | 72 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lancaster Farms | — | — | — | 70 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Leeds | — | — | — | 120 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Leicester | — | — | — | 120 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lewes | — | — | — | — | 96 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Leyhill | — | — | — | 24 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lincoln | — | — | — | 122 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lindholme | — | — | — | — | 144 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Littlehey | — | 61 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Liverpool | — | — | — | — | 72 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Long Lartin | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 16 | — | — |
| Low Newton | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 50 | — |
| Lowdham Grange | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Maidstone | — | — | — | — | 96 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Manchester | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Moorland | — | — | — | — | 35 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Mount | — | 102 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| New Hall | — | — | — | 87 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| North Sea Camp | — | — | — | 101 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northallerton | — | — | — | 100 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Norwich | — | 60 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Nottingham | — | — | — | 120 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Onley | — | — | — | — | 92 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Parc | — | — | — | — | 96 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Parkhurst | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pentonville | — | — | — | 120 | 96 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Peterborough | — | — | — | 120 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Portland | — | — | — | — | 80 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Preston | — | — | — | 144 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ranby | — | — | — | — | 96 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Reading | — | — | — | 80 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Risley | — | — | — | — | 96 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Rochester | — | — | — | — | 80 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Rye Hill | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ryehill | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Send | — | 56 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Shepton Mallet | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Stafford | — | — | — | — | 96 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Standford Hill | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Stocken | — | — | 96 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Stoke Heath | — | — | — | — | 80 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Styal | — | — | — | 250 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sudbury | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Swaleside | — | 93 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Swansea | — | — | — | 120 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

*Number of starts for prisoners who undertook an accredited offending behaviour programme by prison in 2008-09*

*Drugs and Alcohol*

| *Establishment* | *12 Step HMPS* | *12 Step RAPt* | *STOP* | *SDP* | *PASRO* | *ADTP* | *TC* | *TC Women* | *FOCUS* | *PASRO Women* | *ARI* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Swinfen Hall | | | | | 80 | | | | | | |
| The Mount | | | | | | | | | | | |
| The Verne | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thorn Cross | | | | 98 | | | | | | | |
| Usk | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wakefield | | | | | | | | | 18 | | |
| Wandsworth | | 60 | | 72 | | | | | | | |
| Warren Hill | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wayland | | | | | 96 | | | | | | |
| Wealstun | | | 40 | | 96 | | | | | | |
| Wellingborough | | | | | 102 | | | | | | |
| Wetherby | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whatton | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whitemoor | | | | | | | | | 30 | | |
| Winchester | | | | 120 | 72 | | | | | | |
| Wolds | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Woodhill | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wormwood Scrubs | | | | 203 | 93 | | | | | | |
| Wymott | | | | | | | 60 | | | | |
| Grand total | 159 | 605 | 300 | 5,352 | 1,594 | 64 | 260 | 16 | 51 | 30 | 40 |

*Sex Offender Treatment*

| *Establishment* | *Adapted* | *Core* | *Rolling* | *Extended* | *BLB* | *HSF* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 8 | 9 | 28 | | | |
| Albany | | 44 | | 27 | | |
| Altcourse | | | | | | |
| Ashwell | | | | | | |
| Aylesbury | | 18 | | | | |
| Bedford | | | | | | |
| Belmarsh | | | | | | |
| Birmingham | | | | | | |
| Blakenhurst | | | | | | |
| Blundeston | | | | | | |
| Brinsford | | | | | | |
| Bristol | | | | | | |
| Brixton | | | | | | |
| Buckley Hall | | | | | | |
| Bullingdon | | 27 | 31 | | 26 | |
| amp Hill | | | | | | |
| ardiff | | | | | | |
| astington | | | | | | |
| hannings Wood | | 18 | | | 18 | |
| Chelmsford | | | | | | |
| Coldingley | | | | | | |
| Dartmoor | | | | | | |
| Deerbolt | | | | | | |
| Doncaster | | | | | | |
| Dorchester | | | | | | |
| Dovegate | | | | | | |
| Downview | | | | | | |
| Drake Hall | | | | | | |
| Durham | | | | | | |
| Eastwood Park | | | | | | |
| Edmunds Hill | | | | | | |
| Elmley | | | 16 | | | |
| Erlestoke | | | | | | |
| Everthorpe | | | | | | |
| Exeter | | | | | | |
| Featherstone | | | | | | |
| Ford | | | | | | |
| Forest Bank | | | | | | |

| | Sex Offender Treatment | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment* | *Adapted* | *Core* | *Rolling* | *Extended* | *BLB* | *HSF* |
| Foston Hall | | | | | | |
| Frankland | 6 | 8 | | 9 | | 4 |
| Full Sutton | | 14 | 19 | 9 | | 2 |
| Garth | | | | | | |
| Gartree | | | | | | |
| Glen Parva | | | | | | |
| Gloucester | | | | | | |
| Guys Marsh | | | | | | |
| Haverigg | | | | | | |
| Hewell | | | | | | |
| High Down | | | | | | |
| Highpoint | | | | | | |
| Hindley | | | | | | |
| Hollesley Bay | | | | | | |
| Holloway | | | | | | |
| Holme House | | | | | | |
| Hull | 8 | 27 | 96 | | | |
| Kingston | | | | 8 | | |
| Kirkham | | | | | | |
| Lancaster Castle | | | | | | |
| Lancaster Farms | | | | | | |
| Leeds | | | | | | |
| Leicester | | | | | | |
| Lewes | | | | | | |
| Leyhill | | | | | | |
| Lincoln | | | | | | |
| Lindholme | | | | | | |
| Littlehey | | | 81 | | | |
| Liverpool | | | | | | |
| Long Lartin | | | | | | |
| Low Newton | | | | | | |
| Lowdham Grange | | | | | | |
| Maidstone | | 18 | | | 8 | |
| Manchester | 8 | 8 | | | | |
| Moorland | | | | | | |
| Mount | | | | | | |
| New Hall | | | | | | |
| North Sea Camp | | | | | | |
| Northallerton | | | | | | |
| Norwich | | | | | | |
| Nottingham | | | | | | |
| Onley | | | | | | |
| Parc | | | 25 | | | |
| Parkhurst | | | | | | |
| Pentonville | | | | | | |
| Peterborough | | | | | | |
| Portland | | | | | | |
| Preston | | | | | | |
| Ranby | | | | | | |
| Reading | | | | | | |
| Risley | | 36 | 27 | 9 | 8 | 5 |
| Rochester | | | | | | |
| Rye Hill | | | | | | |
| Ryehill | 8 | 18 | | | | |
| Send | | | | | | |
| Shepton Mallet | | 8 | | 9 | 8 | |
| Stafford | | 18 | 56 | | | |
| Standford Hill | | | | | | |
| Stocken | | | | | | |
| Stoke Heath | | | | | | |
| Styal | | | | | | |
| Sudbury | | | | | | |
| Swaleside | | | | | | |

| | Sex Offender Treatment | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment* | *Adapted* | *Core* | *Rolling* | *Extended* | *BLB* | *HSF* |
| Swansea | | — | — | — | — | — |
| Swinfen Hall | | 26 | — | 8 | 12 | — |
| The Mount | | — | — | — | — | — |
| The Verne | | — | — | — | — | — |
| Thorn Cross | | — | — | — | — | — |
| Usk | 16 | 9 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Wakefield | — | 18 | — | 9 | 9 | 3 |
| Wandsworth | — | 36 | 25 | — | — | — |
| Warren Hill | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Wayland | — | 27 | — | — | 16 | — |
| Wealstun | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Wellingborough | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Wetherby | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Whatton | 32 | 54 | 34 | 9 | 58 | 17 |
| Whitemoor | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Winchester | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Wolds | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Woodhill | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Wormwood Scrubs | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Wymott | 8 | 27 | — | — | 9 | — |
| Grand total | 88 | 471 | 334 | 89 | 172 | 33 |

| | Offending Behaviour | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment* | *ETS* | *HRP* | *TSP* | *CALM* | *BOOSTER* | *CSCP* | *FOR* | *CHROMIS* | *Grand total* |
| Acklington | 79 | 16 | 10 | — | — | — | — | — | 186 |
| Albany | 90 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 161 |
| Altcourse | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 336 |
| Ashwell | 80 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 152 |
| Aylesbury | 108 | — | — | 40 | — | — | — | — | 226 |
| Bedford | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 237 |
| Belmarsh | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 120 |
| Birmingham | 58 | — | — | — | 5 | — | — | — | 183 |
| Blakenhurst | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 240 |
| Blundeston | 60 | — | — | 32 | 7 | — | — | — | 195 |
| Brinsford | 36 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 36 |
| Bristol | 60 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 180 |
| Brixton | 39 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 243 |
| Buckley Hall | 55 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 55 |
| Bullingdon | 109 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 613 |
| Camp Hill | 90 | — | — | 8 | — | — | — | — | 194 |
| Cardiff | 80 | — | — | 32 | — | — | — | — | 196 |
| Castington | 24 | — | 16 | — | — | — | — | — | 140 |
| Channings Wood | 80 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 183 |
| Chelmsford | 61 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 131 |
| Coldingley | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 100 |
| Dartmoor | 59 | — | — | 31 | — | — | — | — | 209 |
| Deerbolt | 74 | — | 10 | — | — | — | — | — | 164 |
| Doncaster | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 240 |
| Dorchester | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 120 |
| Dovegate | 45 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 45 |
| Downview | 40 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 72 |
| Drake Hall | 60 | — | — | — | 13 | — | — | — | 89 |
| Durham | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 96 |
| Eastwood Park | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 96 |
| Edmunds Hill | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 96 |
| Elmley | 70 | — | — | 8 | — | — | — | — | 310 |
| Erlestoke | 60 | 16 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 136 |
| Everthorpe | 70 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 233 |
| Exeter | 50 | | — | — | — | — | — | — | 170 |
| Featherstone | 67 | | — | 24 | 20 | — | — | — | 207 |
| Ford | 10 | — | — | — | 7 | — | — | — | 134 |
| Forest Bank | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 214 |
| Foston Hall | 19 | — | — | — | 10 | — | — | — | 29 |

| | | | | | Offending Behaviour | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment* | *ETS* | *HRP* | *TSP* | *CALM* | *BOOSTER* | *CSCP* | *FOR* | *CHROMIS* | *Grand total* |
| Frankland | 80 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 57 | 186 |
| Full Sutton | 69 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 131 |
| Garth | 100 | 8 | 10 | 24 | — | — | — | | 182 |
| Gartree | 80 | 16 | — | 48 | — | 15 | — | | 195 |
| Glen Parva | 89 | — | — | 24 | — | — | — | | 303 |
| Gloucester | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 120 |
| Guys Marsh | 90 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 186 |
| Haverigg | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 96 |
| Hewell | 60 | — | — | — | 10 | — | — | | 70 |
| High Down | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 84 |
| Highpoint | 90 | — | — | — | 33 | — | — | | 267 |
| Hindley | 70 | — | — | 8 | — | — | — | | 138 |
| Hollesley Bay | — | — | — | — | 24 | — | — | | 144 |
| Holloway | — | — | — | — | — | — | 47 | | 177 |
| Holme House | 50 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 235 |
| Hull | 120 | — | — | — | — | — | 6 | | 303 |
| Kingston | — | — | — | 16 | — | — | — | | 40 |
| Kirkham | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 96 |
| Lancaster Castle | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 136 |
| Lancaster Farms | 80 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 150 |
| Leeds | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 120 |
| Leicester | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 120 |
| Lewes | 29 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 125 |
| Leyhill | 39 | — | — | — | 29 | — | — | | 92 |
| Lincoln | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 122 |
| Lindholme | 70 | — | 20 | — | — | — | — | | 234 |
| Littlehey | 90 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 192 |
| Liverpool | 60 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 132 |
| Long Lartin | 30 | — | — | 40 | — | 7 | — | | 93 |
| Low Newton | 39 | — | — | — | — | — | 62 | | 151 |
| Lowdham Grange | 100 | — | — | 40 | — | — | — | | 140 |
| Maidstone | 100 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 222 |
| Manchester | 60 | 16 | — | — | — | — | — | | 93 |
| Moorland | 70 | — | — | 24 | — | — | — | | 129 |
| Mount | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 102 |
| New Hall | 20 | — | 20 | — | — | — | 35 | | 162 |
| North Sea Camp | | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 101 |
| Northallerton | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 100 |
| Norwich | 76 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 136 |
| Nottingham | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 120 |
| Onley | 70 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 162 |
| Parc | 40 | — | — | — | — | — | 81 | | 240 |
| Parkhurst | 89 | — | — | 24 | — | — | — | | 113 |
| Pentonville | 140 | — | — | 48 | — | — | — | | 404 |
| Peterborough | 68 | — | 9 | — | — | — | — | | 197 |
| Portland | 81 | — | — | 8 | — | — | — | | 169 |
| Preston | 70 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 214 |
| Ranby | 100 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 196 |
| Reading | 49 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 129 |
| Risley | 100 | — | 20 | 40 | — | — | — | | 341 |
| Rochester | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 80 |
| Rye Hill | 90 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 90 |
| Ryehill | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 26 |
| Send | 30 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 86 |
| Shepton Mallet | 20 | — | — | — | 25 | — | — | | 71 |
| Stafford | 100 | — | — | — | 19 | — | — | | 267 |
| Standford Hill | — | — | — | — | 10 | — | — | | 10 |
| Stocken | 91 | 8 | — | 32 | — | — | — | | 227 |
| Stoke Heath | 62 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 142 |
| Styal | 40 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 299 |
| Sudbury | 10 | — | — | — | 30 | — | — | | 40 |
| Swaleside | 140 | — | — | 32 | 30 | — | — | | 295 |
| Swansea | 30 | — | — | — | — | — | — | | 150 |
| Swinfen Hall | 129 | — | — | 40 | 38 | — | — | | 333 |

| | Offending Behaviour | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment* | *ETS* | *HRP* | *TSP* | *CALM* | *BOOSTER* | *CSCP* | *FOR* | *CHROMIS* | *Grand total* |
| The Mount | 60 | — | — | 16 | — | — | — | — | 76 |
| The Verne | 70 | — | — | 16 | — | — | — | — | 86 |
| Thorn Cross | 69 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 107 |
| Usk | 60 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 87 |
| Wakefield | 62 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 119 |
| Wandsworth | 90 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 283 |
| Warren Hill | 48 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 48 |
| Wayland | 130 | — | — | — | 9 | — | — | — | 278 |
| Wealstun | 90 | — | 50 | — | — | — | — | — | 213 |
| Wellingborough | 90 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 192 |
| Wetherby | 40 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 40 |
| Whatton | 110 | 16 | — | 23 | 30 | — | — | — | 383 |
| Whitemoor | 40 | — | — | 40 | — | — | — | — | 90 |
| Winchester | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 192 |
| Wolds | 30 | — | — | 24 | 32 | — | — | — | 86 |
| Woodhill | 99 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 99 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 59 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 357 |
| Wymott | 150 | — | — | — | 20 | — | — | — | 283 |
| Grand total | 6,209 | 96 | 145 | 742 | 401 | 23 | 231 | 57 | 20,032 |

Key
STOP—Substance Treatment and Offending Programme
SDP—Short Duration Programme
PASRO—Prison Addressing Substance Related Offending
ADTP—Alcohol Dependency Treatment Programme
TC—Therapeutic Community
FOCUS—A Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) programme (High Security estate only)
ARV—Alcohol Related Violence (formerly Alcohol Free Good Lives programme)
BLB—Better Lives Booster
HSF—Healthy Sexual Functioning
ETS—Enhanced Thinking Skills
HRP—Healthy Relationships Programme
TSP—Thinking Skills Programme
CALM—Controlling Anger and Learning to Manage it
Booster—Cognitive Skills Booster
CSCP—Cognitive Self Change Programme
FOR—motivational resettlement programme
Chromis—programme for offenders with psychopathic traits

## Office of Public Sector Information: Marketing

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2153W, on third sector, which Minister took the decision to rebrand Her Majesty's Stationery Office to the Office of Public Sector Information; and whether Her Majesty was consulted. [305061]

**Mr. Wills:** Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) was not re-branded the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) and continues to exist and fulfil its core activities, including responsibility for the publication of legislation and the management of Crown copyright operating from within The National Archives. In 2005, OPSI was created as a result of implementing the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005 No. 1515). The decision to create OPSI was taken by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster as the Minister responsible for the Cabinet Office. Activities relating to these regulations are undertaken under the OPSI name. OPSI merged with The National Archives in 2006. The National Archives is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice, for which I have responsibility. Her Majesty was consulted on these changes when they took place.

## Pathogens Access Appeals Commission

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what remuneration the chair of the Pathogens Access Appeals Commission receives; [304314]

(2) how many people worked for the Pathogens Access Appeals Commission in each of the last three years; [304315]

(3) how much the Pathogens Access Appeals Commission cost in each of the last three years. [304316]

**Mr. Straw:** The fee for the Chair of the Pathogens Access Appeals Commission (PAAC) is £894 per day. There has been no remuneration to the Chair, as no appeals have been submitted to the PAAC. Any appeals received would be administered by staff from existing tribunals. The Department has incurred no direct costs.

## Prison Accommodation

**Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the (a) operating costs and (b) figures for (i) funding, (ii) operational capacity and (iii) certified nominal accommodation were for each prison in 2008-09; and what the average (A) cost of a prisoner place and (B) prison population was in 2008-09. [303926]

**Maria Eagle:** The net establishment level operating costs and figures for funding, operational capacity and certified normal accommodation for each public sector prison in 2008-09 are shown in the following tables.

The average establishment level direct cost of a prisoner place in 2008-09 was £30,328.

The average prison population in 2008-09 was 82,830.

The cost figures provided are net resource expenditure met and recorded locally against each prison. They do not include net expenditure met at regional or national level against central budgets.

Private prisons are operated through contracts between the contractors and NOMS, as a result operating costs are included in the table but not budgets.

Expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. education and health) is not included in the figures.

*Male category B*

| | (a) | (b) (i) | (b) (ii) | (b) (iii) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment name* | *Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£)* | *Budget (£)* | *Operational capacity (March 2009)* | *Average baseline - certified normal accommodation* |
| Garth | 21,065,174 | 21,006,413 | 847 | 812 |
| Gartree | 17,507,598 | 16,484,342 | 677 | 668 |
| Grendon (HMP Grendon and Springhill) | 15,398,101 | 15,402,169 | 527 | 587 |
| Kingston | 6,169,756 | 6,247,580 | 175 | 199 |
| Total | 60,140,630 | 59,140,504 | 2,226 | 2,266 |

*Male category C*

| | (a) | (b) (i) | (b) (ii) | (b) (iii) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment name* | *Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£)* | *Budget (£)* | *Operational capacity (March 2009)* | *Average baseline - certified normal accommodation* |
| Acklington | 18,908,339 | 18,668,389 | 946 | 937 |
| Ashwell | 12,097,063 | 12,157,863 | 619 | 572 |
| Blundeston | 13,142,989 | 12,904,076 | 526 | 476 |
| Buckley Hall | 9,687,783 | 9,488,840 | 381 | 350 |
| Bullwood Hall | 6,973,684 | 6,784,529 | 228 | 180 |
| Canterbury | 7,680,457 | 7,477,045 | 314 | 195 |
| Channings Wood | 15,775,812 | 15,817,456 | 729 | 698 |
| Coldingley | 13,818,439 | 14,607,214 | 513 | 423 |
| Dartmoor | 16,797,358 | 16,667,080 | 650 | 628 |
| Edmunds Hill | 9,719,171 | 9,687,665 | 371 | 371 |
| Erlestoke | 10,925,527 | 10,861,982 | 470 | 470 |
| Everthorpe | 13,079,909 | 13,322,337 | 689 | 603 |
| Featherstone | 14,409,441 | 14,718,810 | 687 | 663 |
| Guys Marsh | 11,809,841 | 11,826,814 | 578 | 520 |
| Haverigg | 14,382,081 | 14,284,808 | 644 | 622 |
| Highpoint | 17,360,461 | 17,301,312 | 930 | 825 |
| Kennet | 12,769,566 | 13,115,719 | 342 | 175 |
| Lancaster (Castle) | 7,625,232 | 7,560,170 | 243 | 159 |
| Lindholme | 21,081,944 | 21,209,483 | 1,134 | 1,044 |
| Littlehey | 12,796,232 | 12,879,501 | 726 | 663 |
| Maidstone | 11,811,858 | 11,703,085 | 482 | 558 |
| Moorland | 20,891,766 | 20,665,221 | 1,045 | 1,000 |
| Mount | 16,847,802 | 16,317,311 | 768 | 747 |
| Onley | 16,932,913 | 17,468,121 | 652 | 641 |
| Ranby | 22,003,871 | 21,814,741 | 1,080 | 971 |
| Risley | 22,664,946 | 22,614,473 | 1,093 | 1,050 |
| Shepton Mallet | 6,277,500 | 6,152,807 | 189 | 165 |
| Stafford | 15,152,719 | 15,130,034 | 741 | 708 |
| Stocken | 16,526,261 | 17,268,796 | 816 | 778 |
| Usk\P[illegible]coed | 8,808,016 | 8,753,878 | 434 | 318 |
| Verne | 12,214,669 | 12,212,782 | 607 | 562 |
| Wayland | 17,602,049 | 18,553,691 | 1017 | 935 |
| Wealstun | 16,654,128 | 17,415,952 | 527 | 885 |
| Wellingborough | 13,864,232 | 13,821,822 | 646 | 638 |
| Whatton | 18,694,212 | 19,164,040 | 841 | 779 |
| Wymott | 24,114,563 | 23,480,121 | 1144 | 1,047 |
| Total | 521,902,835 | 523,877,967 | 23802 | 22,356 |

*Male dispersal*

| | (a) | (b) (i) | (b) (ii) | (b) (iii) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment name* | *Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£)* | *Budget (£)* | *Operational capacity (March 2009)* | *Average baseline - certified normal accommodation* |
| Frankland | 38,946,823 | 39,105,000 | 750 | 733 |
| Full Sutton | 29,654,714 | 29,762,000 | 604 | 600 |

*Male dispersal*

| | (a) | (b) (i) | (b) (ii) | (b) (iii) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment name* | *Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£)* | *Budget (£)* | *Operational capacity (March 2009)* | *Average baseline - certified normal accommodation* |
| Long Lartin | 25,988,266 | 25,983,000 | 473 | 504 |
| Wakefield | 29,369,107 | 29,458,222 | 751 | 748 |
| Whitemoor | 31,369,667 | 31,450,000 | 458 | 492 |
| Total | 155,328,578 | 155,758,222 | 3036 | 3,077 |

*Female closed*

| | (a) | (b) (i) | (b) (ii) | (b) (iii) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment name* | *Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£)* | *Budget (£)* | *Operational capacity (March 2009)* | *Average baseline - certified normal accommodation* |
| Downview | 10,440,260 | 10,340,475 | 359 | 358 |
| Foston Hall | 9,848,350 | 10,107,192 | 272 | 283 |
| Send | 9,168,516 | 8,799,419 | 278 | 282 |
| Total | 29,457,126 | 29,247,086 | 909 | 923 |

*Female local*

| | (a) | (b) (i) | (b) (ii) | (b) (iii) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment name* | *Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£)* | *Budget (£)* | *Operational capacity (March 2009)* | *Average baseline - certified normal accommodation* |
| Eastwood Park | 10,566,776 | 10,703,923 | 362 | 326 |
| Holloway | 21,349,208 | 21,111,168 | 500 | 534 |
| Low Newton | 11,933,285 | 11,782,584 | 336 | 315 |
| New Hall | 16,411,720 | 15,913,154 | 447 | 393 |
| Styal | 15,150,734 | 15,067,676 | 458 | 450 |
| Total | 75,411,724 | 74,578,505 | 2103 | 2,017 |

*Female open*

| | (a) | (b) (i) | (b) (ii) | (b) (iii) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment name* | *Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£)* | *Budget (£)* | *Operational capacity (March 2009)* | *Average baseline - certified normal accommodation* |
| Askham Grange | 3,638,796 | 3,589,049 | 128 | 151 |
| East Sutton Park | 2,695,471 | 2,818,326 | 100 | 98 |
| Total | 6,334,267 | 6,407,375 | 228 | 249 |

*Male closed YOI*

| | (a) | (b) (i) | (b) (ii) | (b) (iii) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment name* | *Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£)* | *Budget (£)* | *Operational capacity (March 2009)* | *Average baseline - certified normal accommodation* |
| Aylesbury | 13,428,584 | 13,416,361 | 444 | 437 |
| Brinsford | 16,818,021 | 16,968,908 | 569 | 535 |
| Castington | 14,884,903 | 14,811,622 | 410 | 400 |
| Deerbolt | 15,429,274 | 15,164,655 | 503 | 513 |
| Feltham | 33,072,667 | 33,053,260 | 762 | 762 |
| Glen Parva | 18,797,660 | 19,250,626 | 808 | 668 |
| Hindley | 18,819,544 | 18,252,763 | 515 | 599 |
| Lancaster Farms | 17,380,346 | 17,669,213 | 520 | 480 |
| Northallerton | 5,842,196 | 5,801,451 | 252 | 149 |
| Portland | 16,248,939 | 16,158,483 | 624 | 599 |
| Reading | 9,426,097 | 9,449,702 | 297 | 190 |
| Rochester | 14,827,179 | 16,914,868 | 642 | 540 |
| Stoke Heath | 17,942,798 | 18,227,867 | 678 | 634 |
| Swinfen Hall | 15,257,174 | 15,109,517 | 624 | 604 |
| Total | 228,175,383 | 230,249,296 | 7648 | 7,110 |

*Male YOI juvenile*

| | (a) | (b) (i) | (b) (ii) | (b) (iii) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment name* | *Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£)* | *Budget (£)* | *Operational capacity (March 2009)* | *Average baseline - certified normal accommodation* |
| Cookham Wood | 7,915,362 | 8,148,139 | 126 | 144 |
| Huntercombe | 13,266,059 | 13,589,589 | 365 | 360 |

*Male YOI juvenile*

| Establishment name | (a) Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£) | (b) (i) Budget (£) | (b) (ii) Operational capacity (March 2009) | (b) (iii) Average baseline - certified normal accommodation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Warren Hill | 9,800,684 | 9,764,911 | 222 | 222 |
| Werrington | 7,001,534 | 6,937,673 | 162 | 160 |
| Wetherby | 14,564,398 | 14,731,623 | 408 | 384 |
| Total | 52,548,037 | 53,171,935 | 1283 | 1,270 |

*Male local*

| Establishment name | (a) Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£) | (b) (i) Budget (£) | (b) (ii) Operational capacity (March 2009) | (b) (iii) Average baseline - certified normal accommodation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bedford | 11,922,584 | 11,698,353 | 506 | 324 |
| Belmarsh | 42,162,623 | 40,974,600 | 910 | 800 |
| Birmingham | 30,484,199 | 30,418,795 | 1450 | 1,112 |
| Bristol | 15,666,886 | 15,645,330 | 614 | 424 |
| Brixton | 20,343,607 | 20,279,580 | 798 | 606 |
| Bullingdon | 22,483,226 | 23,880,927 | 1114 | 827 |
| Cardiff | 16,724,714 | 17,066,766 | 824 | 535 |
| Chelmsford | 17,503,321 | 17,218,998 | 695 | 554 |
| Dorchester | 7,728,747 | 7,741,860 | 259 | 145 |
| Durham | 23,107,960 | 22,927,406 | 985 | 594 |
| Exeter | 12,926,888 | 12,902,640 | 533 | 316 |
| Gloucester | 9,113,564 | 9,228,846 | 321 | 225 |
| High Down | 25,742,808 | 26,825,437 | 1103 | 999 |
| Holme House | 21,027,018 | 20,835,530 | 994 | 857 |
| Hull | 22,182,372 | 21,847,024 | 998 | 723 |
| Leeds | 24,176,491 | 22,926,751 | 1154 | 823 |
| Leicester | 9,591,913 | 9,611,560 | 392 | 210 |
| Lewes | 17,790,440 | 17,089,136 | 723 | 620 |
| Lincoln | 15,645,532 | 15,600,616 | 738 | 448 |
| Liverpool | 26,853,605 | 26,950,862 | 1445 | 1,186 |
| Manchester | 34,296,488 | 34,403,000 | 1269 | 948 |
| Norwich | 15,828,794 | 15,904,139 | 557 | 500 |
| Nottingham | 15,664,059 | 15,452,062 | 550 | 409 |
| Pentonville | 27,441,799 | 27,065,673 | 1152 | 913 |
| Preston | 19,271,549 | 18,956,226 | 842 | 451 |
| Shrewsbury | 8,775,263 | 8,544,336 | 332 | 185 |
| Swansea | 9,845,978 | 9,819,915 | 402 | 248 |
| Wandsworth | 34,966,394 | 34,863,354 | 1644 | 1,086 |
| Winchester | 14,955,540 | 14,728,462 | 706 | 428 |
| Woodhill | 31,951,935 | 31,969,000 | 819 | 717 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 28,197,614 | 28,014,606 | 1277 | 1,177 |
| Total | 634,373,911 | 631,391,789 | 26106 | 19,390 |

*Male open*

| Establishment name | (a) Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£) | (b) (i) Budget (£) | (b) (ii) Operational capacity (March 2009) | (b) (iii) Average baseline - certified normal accommodation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ford | 8,705,446 | 8,610,909 | 557 | 557 |
| Hollesley Bay | 7,044,053 | 6,773,086 | 345 | 345 |
| Kirkham | 13,885,548 | 13,662,707 | 590 | 590 |
| Leyhill | 10,422,190 | 10,221,595 | 512 | 512 |
| North Sea Camp | 6,429,962 | 6,166,578 | 318 | 318 |
| Sudbury | 9,030,115 | 8,875,751 | 581 | 579 |
| Total | 55,517,315 | 54,310,626 | 2903 | 2,901 |

*Male open YOI*

| Establishment name | (a) Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£) | (b) (i) Budget (£) | (b) (ii) Operational capacity (March 2009) | (b) (iii) Average baseline - certified normal accommodation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thorn Cross | 8,983,400 | 9,085,793 | 322 | 322 |
| Total | 8,983,400 | 9,085,793 | 322 | 322 |

*Semi open*

| | (a) | (b) (i) | (b) (ii) | (b) (iii) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment name* | *Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£)* | *Budget (£)* | *Operational capacity (March 2009)* | *Average baseline - certified normal accommodation* |
| Blantyre House | 3,612,391 | 3,065,681 | 122 | 122 |
| Dover | 7,665,832 | 7,440,315 | 316 | 316 |
| Drake Hall | 8,357,364 | 8,312,326 | 315 | 315 |
| Haslar | 3,649,674 | 3,697,981 | 160 | 160 |
| Kirklevington | 5,582,764 | 5,626,366 | 283 | 274 |
| Latchmere House | 4,753,809 | 4,730,387 | 207 | 207 |
| Morton Hall | 8,732,022 | 8,723,535 | 392 | 392 |
| Total | 42,353,857 | 41,596,592 | 1795 | 1,786 |

*Cluster (3)*

| | (a) | (b) (i) | (b) (ii) | (b) (iii) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment name* | *Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£)* | *Budget (£)* | *Operational capacity (march 2009)* | *Average baseline - certified normal accommodation* |
| Hewell Grange (Brockhill and Blakenhurst) | 29,234,190 | 29,179,539 | 1431 | 1,177 |
| Sheppey Cluster | 44,942,798 | 47,695,373 | 2257 | 2,018 |
| Isle of Wight | 40,123,299 | 38,753,354 | 1669 | 1,543 |
| Total | 114,300,287 | 115,628,266 | 5347 | 4,737 |
| | | | | |
| Totals | 1,984,827,348 | 1,984,443,956 | 77,708 | 68,404 |

*Private*

| | (a) | (b) (i) | (b) (ii) | (b) (iii) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment name* | *Operating costs (direct net expenditure) (£)* | *Budget (£)* | *Operational capacity (March 2009)* | *Average baseline - certified normal accommodation* |
| Altcourse | 46,755,009 | 0 | 1,324 | 794 |
| Ashfield | 23,065,309 | 0 | 400 | 407 |
| Bronzefield | 26,017,488 | 0 | 465 | 450 |
| Doncaster | 29,159,167 | 0 | 1146 | 771 |
| Dovegate | 27,863,070 | 0 | 860 | 800 |
| Forest Bank | 28,521,810 | 0 | 1161 | 800 |
| Lowdham Grange | 20,612,263 | 0 | 690 | 640 |
| Parc | 44,929,152 | 0 | 1,200 | 838 |
| Peterborough | 32,410,756 | 0 | 1,008 | 840 |
| Rye Hill | 18,656,797 | 0 | 664 | 600 |
| The Wolds | 11,912,975 | 0 | 395 | 320 |
| Private Prisons Sub-Total | 309,903,796 | 0 | 9313 | 7,260 |
| | | | | |
| Grand Total | 2,294,731,144 | 1,984,443,956 | 87,021 | 75,664 |

Notes

1 Displayed figures are subject to rounding.

2 Establishments are categorised in these tables by their main role as at the end of 2008-09 for all periods reported. Establishments that have more than one role have been placed in the category that represents the primary or dominant function of the prison. For this reason, performance of prisons within a category cannot necessarily be compared on a like for like basis.

3 YOI refers to Young Offender Institutions.

4 Data for Elmley, Standford Hill and Swaleside, is reported under the Sheppey cluster. Similarly data for Blakenhurst, Brockhill and Hewell Grange is reported together as a cluster (as Hewell Grange)

Data for Parkhurst, Camphill and Albany is now reported under the Isle of Wight cluster.

5 Cookham Wood changed from a Female closed prison to a Male juvenile prison in October 2007. Data for 2008-09 is now shown under the category Male Juvenile.

6. Dover and Haslar are Immigration Detention Centres (IDC) operating under Detention Centre Rules 2001. Lindholme includes Lindholme IDC. It is a split site, part Category C Training Prison and part Immigration Detention Centre.

7. The following expenditure is not included: a one-off impairment charge of £496 million following revaluation of land and buildings; Operation Safeguard (use of Police Cells); cost of capital on assets in the course of construction, expenditure at HMPS Bure as it had not yet opened.

## Prisoners: Training

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of the prison population undertakes employment-related activities; whether he has made a recent estimate of the annual average number of hours spent by prisoners on such activities; and what recent assessment he has made of the merits of such activities. [305409]

**Maria Eagle:** In 2008-09 an average of 13.36 hours per prisoner per week were spent on employment-related activities.

It is not possible to provide figures for the percentage of the population that takes part in employment-related activities. This is because the regime's monitoring database records activities in hours and does not allow those activities to be broken down by individual prisoner.

Increasing offender employment rates is critical to our strategy to increase social inclusion and reduce reoffending. A key aim is to provide prisoners with employment skills, experience and motivation so they become productive members of society. A survey from 2008 of prisoners' own perception of need[1] found that most said they needed help with finding employment (48 per cent.), getting qualifications (42 per cent.) and work-related skills (41 per cent.) ahead of other help or interventions such as finding accommodation (37 per cent.), offending behaviour (34 per cent.) and drug problems (29 per cent.).

[1] *Source:*

MOJ Research Series 16/08: 'The problems and needs of newly sentenced prisoners: results from a national survey'

## Prisons: North West

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the full-time equivalent staffing level at each prison establishment in the North West was in each of the last five years. [304692]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on the full-time equivalent staff in post in each Prison Service establishment in the North West since 2005 is contained in the following table. The information relates to both public sector and contracted establishments.

*Full time equivalent staffing at north west prison establishments 2005 to 2009*

| | *As at 31 March* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *30 September 2009* |
| Altcourse | 499 | 527 | 548 | 587 | 568 | 558 |
| Buckley Hall | 238 | 215 | 213 | 215 | 215 | 208 |
| Forest Bank[1] | 350 | 393 | 405 | 418 | 470 | 547 |
| Garth | 406 | 435 | 497 | 527 | 519 | 496 |
| Haverigg | 310 | 319 | 319 | 323 | 319 | 316 |
| Hindley | 424 | 406 | 419 | 411 | 451 | 431 |
| Kennet[2] | — | | 33 | 300 | 291 | 285 |
| Kirkham | 261 | 262 | 248 | 237 | 232 | 230 |
| Lancaster | 168 | 163 | 177 | 181 | 174 | 169 |
| Lancaster Farms | 418 | 394 | 405 | 416 | 407 | 389 |
| Liverpool | 679 | 704 | 680 | 658 | 624 | 622 |
| Manchester | 796 | 836 | 826 | 830 | 865 | 859 |
| Preston | 417 | 422 | 452 | 450 | 465 | 449 |
| Risley | 496 | 491 | 482 | 495 | 492 | 479 |
| Styal | 363 | 361 | 371 | 324 | 323 | 330 |
| Thorn Cross | 212 | 215 | 215 | 210 | 199 | 196 |
| Wymott | 512 | 505 | 501 | 538 | 539 | 527 |
| Total | 6,548 | 6,648 | 6,789 | 7,119 | 7,153 | 7,091 |

[1] Figures are on headcount rather than full-time equivalent basis.

[2] HMP Kennet opened in 2007.

*Note:*

The information relating to public sector establishments has been derived from the Personnel Corporate Database and Oracle HRMS. These are subject to the normal levels of inaccuracy expected of any large-scale reporting system. Information concerning the two contracted prisons in the North West—Altcourse and Forest Bank—has been provided by the individual contractors.

## Probation: South East

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Probation Service staff there were in each probation area in the South East in each of the last five years; and what the ratio of offenders to such staff was in each such year. [304282]

**Maria Eagle:** Over the five year period, the number of qualified probation officers[1, 2] has increased by 7.3 per cent. nationally, with numbers in the south-east increasing by 7.9 per cent. The total number of staff in each probation area in the south-east region is shown in the table, together with the ratio to offenders.

*Ratio of offenders to probation staff in the south-east*

| | | *2004*[1] | *2005*[2] | *2006*[3] | *2007*[3] | *2008*[4] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hampshire | Staff in post[5] | 520 | 584 | 603 | 610 | 613 |
| | Ratio—offenders:staff[6] | 10.5:1 | 10.1:1 | 10.3:1 | 10.6:1 | 10.9:1 |
| Kent | Staff in post[5] | 457 | 476 | 506 | 489 | 448 |
| | Ratio—offenders:staff[6] | 10.1:1 | 9.8:1 | 11.0:1 | 12.1:1 | 13.5:1 |
| Surrey | Staff in post[5] | 246 | 264 | 265 | 285 | 288 |
| | Ratio—offenders:staff[6] | 7.0:1 | 6.8:1 | 7.6:1 | 7.5:1 | 7.2:1 |
| Sussex | Staff in post[5] | 364 | 403 | 428 | 397 | 403 |
| | Ratio—offenders:staff[6] | 13.2:1 | 11.2:1 | 11.7:1 | 14.6:1 | 13.7:1 |
| Thames Valley | Staff in post[5] | 612 | 623 | 650 | 640 | 668 |

*Ratio of offenders to probation staff[5] in the south-east*

| | 2004[3] | 2005[3] | 2006[3] | 2007[3] | 2008[4] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ratio—offenders:staff[6] | 8.8:1 | 9.4:1 | 10.3:1 | 10.7:1 | 10.5:1 |

[1] Includes; senior probation officers, senior practitioners, probation officers and practice development assessors.
[2] Figures for 2008 are taken from the HR Data Warehouse and are correct at publication. Probation areas/trusts have the ability to resubmit historical data into the HR Data Warehouse and this may result in occasional variations in subsequent reports.
[3] Figures as at 31 December
[4] Figures as at September 2008; the latest date for which there are corresponding staffing and offender figures.
[5] Includes all staff employed within the area.
[6] Calculated against all staff employed within the area.

## Rape: Domestic Violence

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many cases of *(a)* rape, *(b)* attempted rape and *(c)* domestic violence cautions have been issued in each of the last three years. [304455]

**Claire Ward:** Information showing the number of offenders cautioned for offences of rape and attempted rape in England and Wales, from 2005 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

The Ministry of Justice cannot separately identify domestic violence offences from other offences of assault and violence against the person. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) advise that domestic violence cases have to be referred by the police to a prosecutor for a charging decision in accordance with the Director's Guidance on Charging. A report of domestic violence to the police is unlikely to have been the first incident, and for that reason cautions should be rarely administered in these cases. If there is sufficient evidence of an offence, the public interest will usually mean that the decision is taken to prosecute the case in the courts.

The number of domestic violence prosecutions undertaken by the CPS has increased from 34,839 in 2004-05 to 67,094 in 2008-9. The proportion of successful cases has also risen from 55 per cent. in March 2005 to 71.9 per cent. in September 2009.

*The number of offenders cautioned[1, 2] for rape and attempted rape, England and Wales, 2005 to 2007[3, 4]*

| *Offence description* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rape | 20 | 19 | 32 |
| Attempted rape | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Total | 22 | 24 | 34 |

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Data given includes rape/attempted rape of male and female.
*Source:*
Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those convicted for offences related to domestic violence had been issued with at least one caution prior to conviction in the last three years. [304476]

**Claire Ward:** The information requested is not available. It is not possible to identify offences involving domestic violence using the department's extract from the police national computer, which is the source of data on previous offences; domestic violence offences cannot be distinguished from other violent offences.

## Remand in Custody: Ashford

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Ashford constituency who have been remanded in custody in each year since 2005 were not convicted of the offences in respect of which they were remanded in custody; and how many days in total such people spent on remand in each such year. [304921]

**Claire Ward:** Information collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of persons remanded in custody is not available below Criminal Justice System area level.

## Transsexuality

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the salary is of each person who sits on the Gender Recognition Panel. [304311]

**Mr. Straw:** Legal members of the Gender Recognition Panel (GRP), including the President and Deputy President are salaried First-tier Tribunal Judges within the Social Entitlement Chamber. In addition, one medical member of the GRP is a member of the First-tier Tribunal within the Social Entitlement Chamber. None of these office holders receives additional remuneration on account of their responsibilities in connection with the GRP. Fee paid medical members of the GRP are remunerated at the rate of £371 per day.

Full details of judicial salaries and fees can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/judicial-fees-salaries.htm

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people worked for the Gender Recognition Panel in each of the last three years. [304312]

**Mr. Straw:** The number of people who have worked for the Gender Recognition Panel for each of the last three years is shown in the following table. From May 2007 the staff also provide support to a number of tribunals.

| *Period* | *Number of staff* |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| January-February | 5 |

| *Period* | *Number of staff* |
|---|---|
| March-September | 4 |
| October-December | 3 |
| *2007* | |
| January-April | 3 |
| May-December | 2 |
| *2008* | 2 |
| *2009* | 2 |

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Gender Recognition Panel cost in each of the last three years. [304313]

**Mr. Straw:** The full cost for the Gender Recognition Panel for the last three financial years is shown in the following table.

| | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 216,480 |
| 2007-08 | 173,109 |
| 2008-09[1] | 121,293 |

[1] 2008-09. The administrative element of the cost for this year is not on a similar basis due to a change in accounting procedures. This component is now recorded within the overall administrative cost of the Leicestershire Administrative Support Centre, where the Gender Recognition Panel is based. This accounts for a reduction of £14,364 between costs in 2007-08 and 2008-09.

### Young Offenders: Location

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young people are in the process of being relocated from Young Offenders' Institution Brinsford; how many of them will be transferred to an institution further away from their home; and if he will make a statement. [304653]

**Maria Eagle:** On 3 December 2009, there were 26 sentenced young people at HMYOI Brinsford. The Youth Justice Board has developed individual placement plans for each of these young people, in order to minimise any disruption to their sentence plans and to ensure that they are placed in the most suitable alternative accommodation. Of the 23 young people for whom the YJB has a valid permanent home address, 22 will be further from home as a result of the planned transfers.

On 3 December 2009, there were also 34 young people on remand at Brinsford. If sentenced, they will be placed in an alternative establishment.

## HEALTH

### Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent steps his Department has taken to seek to reduce the availability of cheap alcoholic drinks; [304209]

(2) what research his Department has undertaken on the likely effects on the level of alcohol consumption of a minimum unit price for alcohol in the last 10 years; [304210]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Medical Officer on restrictions on the price of alcohol. [304211]

**Gillian Merron:** In December 2008, the Department published an independent review on the effects of alcohol pricing and promotion from the School of Health and Related Research at the University of Sheffield. This included looking at the effects of minimum unit price on consumption

A copy of the publication "Independent review of the effects of alcohol pricing and promotion from the School of Health and Related Research at the University of Sheffield" has already been placed in the Library.

The Government recently completed a public consultation on the content of a new mandatory code of practice for alcohol retailers. The consultation includes proposals to tackle irresponsible promotions in the on-trade, and in the off-trade it explores the principle of prohibiting retailers from offering alcohol for sale at prices below the rate of duty and VAT paid on the product, a form of loss leader.

In the consultation, the Department also committed to do further work on the impact of alcohol price and promotions and in particular to look into certain key evidence gaps.

All responses will be independently analysed and a report of the consultation and the Government's response will follow in due course.

The chief medical officer regularly meets Ministers from the Department on a number of policy issues, including alcohol.

### Arthritis: Health Services

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking, with reference to the report by the National Audit Office on Services for People with Rheumatoid Arthritis, to work with primary care trusts to promote early treatment of and employment-focused support for people with inflammatory arthritis. [304419]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has published a good practice commissioning pathway for inflammatory arthritis which supports clinicians in identifying cases of rheumatoid arthritis and ensuring that they are set on the right pathway of care. This describes key symptoms, for example where patients should be referred for urgent treatment.

General practitioners can also use the Map of Medicine to determine the best possible treatment options for their patients, including information on the various patterns of onset, diagnostic tests and medical treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.[1]

The Government response to Dame Carol Black's review of the health of the working age population "Working for a Healthier Tomorrow" introduced a number of policy initiatives aimed at supporting people with health conditions to stay in, return to or move in to work.

For example, Pathways to Work and Condition Management Programme are designed to meet the needs of the three most common causes of long-term sickness: mental health, musculoskeletal and cardio respiratory conditions. Individuals who have inflammatory arthritis and are claiming benefits can volunteer to participate.

The Fit for Work Service Pilots will integrate with existing health and employment-related structures and services, such as Jobcentre Plus and relevant local partnerships, to join up appropriate support for sickness absentees. This will include health-related services such as physiotherapy but will also extend to wider support such as employment, skills, housing and debt advice. As musculoskeletal disorders are one of the most common causes of sickness absence, appropriate support for these will be an integral part of the Fit for Work Service pilots and those with inflammatory arthritis will receive appropriate and timely treatment.

[1] The Map of Medicine is a map of best available research evidence and a best evidence clinical guideline. It displays this knowledge in an easy-to-use pathways format, reflecting the patient journey and provides a framework for creating local pathways.

## Blood: Donors

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on advertising to encourage people to donate blood in each of the last 10 years. [304099]

**Gillian Merron:** The following table shows funds spent on marketing activities to attract blood donors in England and North Wales between 2001-02 (the earliest date for which complete data are available as before then figures were not collated centrally) and 2008-09. Costs given include media advertising; direct marketing; external marketing services; campaign events; donor awards; promotional items; and public relations activities.

| | *Cost (£)*[1] |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 10,475,238 |
| 2002-03 | 10,745,007 |
| 2003-04 | 11,127,532 |
| 2004-05 | 11,341,616 |
| 2005-06 | 11,780,854 |
| 2006-07 | 12,523,837 |
| 2007-08 | [2]13,967,051 |
| 2008-09 | [2]14,453,533 |

[1] Figures given relate solely to expenditure by the National Blood Service (part of NHS Blood and Transplant). The promotion of blood donation in South Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the separate UK blood services which operate in those areas.

[2] Figures for 2007-08 and 2008-09 reflect the cost of promoting both blood and organ donation. In October 2005, the National Blood Service and UK Transplant merged to become one special health authority, NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). Accounting systems were subsequently amalgamated, and the cost of promoting blood donation is no longer recorded separately.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of people were on the *(a)* blood donor and *(b)* bone marrow donor register in each register area in each of the last 10 years. [304103]

**Gillian Merron:** The following table shows the total number of blood donors recorded in June of the last eight calendar years, broken down by region into the north (incorporating North Wales); south-east; and south-west; and the percentage of blood donors as a proportion of the total population of England. 2001 is the earliest year for which complete data are available, as before then data was not collated centrally.

*Number of blood donors*

| | *North* | *South West* | *South East* | *Total blood donors* | *Population (million, England)* | *Blood donors—percentage of population* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 677,554 | 517,873 | 619,911 | 1,815,338 | 49.1 | 3.7 |
| 2002 | 665,724 | 509,497 | 614,398 | 1,789,619 | 49.7 | 3.6 |
| 2003 | 602,121 | 492,519 | 588,549 | 1,683,189 | 49.9 | 3.4 |
| 2004 | 581,113 | 472,720 | 553,801 | 1,607,634 | 50.1 | 3.2 |
| 2005 | 584,661 | 474,457 | 537,951 | 1,597,069 | 50.5 | 3.2 |
| 2006 | 541,098 | 440,019 | 499,641 | 1,480,758 | 50.8 | 2.9 |
| 2007 | 511,800 | 418,225 | 462,059 | 1,392,084 | 51.1 | 2.7 |
| 2008 | 514,983 | 430,107 | 466,807 | 1,411,897 | 51.5 | 2.7 |
| 2009 | 512,031 | 448,647 | 449,028 | 1,409,706 | 51.7 | 2.7 |

The corresponding figures for people on the bone marrow registry is not currently collated centrally. However NHS Blood and Transplant is currently in the process of migrating these data to a central system and a copy of these figures will be placed in the Library.

## Bolton Primary Care Trust: Managers

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many senior managers were employed in the Wigan and Bolton Health Authority in the final year of its operation; and how many were employed by Bolton Primary Care Trust at the latest date for which figures are available. [304449]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is shown in the following table:

*National health service hospitals and community health services: Senior managers in the Wigan and Bolton Heath Authority and the Bolton Primary Care Trust (PCT)*

| | *Senior manager headcount* |
|---|---|
| Wigan and Bolton Health Authority as at 30 September 2001 | 8 |
| Bolton PCT as at 30 September 2008 | 11 |

*Note:*

The Bolton PCT was formed in 2002, bringing together elements of the former Wigan and Bolton Health Authority, the three Bolton Primary Care Groups, and the Community Healthcare Bolton NHS Trust.

*Source:*

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

### Bone Marrow Disorders: Donors

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to increase the number of blood donors who are bone marrow donors; and if he will make a statement. [304102]

**Gillian Merron:** The National Blood Service (part of NHS Blood and Transplant) currently recruits bone marrow donors from the existing pool of blood donors and therefore efforts to promote bone marrow donation are focused through existing channels of communication with donors. Information on bone marrow donation is available at blood collection sessions, and staff actively promote bone marrow donation particularly to blood donors from black and minority ethnic communities.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the devolved Administrations on increasing the number of bone marrow donors. [304104]

**Gillian Merron:** NHS Blood and Transplant, as the special health authority with responsibility for ensuring the supply of blood, organs, stem cells and tissues for patients, holds regular meetings with its counterparts from across the UK where all issues on donation and collection are discussed.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not held any meetings with the devolved Administrations on increasing the number of bone marrow donors.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of patients who received bone marrow and stem cell treatments in the last 12 months were administered cells from *(a)* UK donors and *(b)* foreign donors from each country. [304105]

**Gillian Merron:** This information is not collected.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the unit cost of identifying the tissue type of a bone marrow or stem cell donor by samples taken from *(a)* a blood donor at the time of donation and *(b)* a DNA swab. [304185]

**Gillian Merron:** NHS Blood and Transplant use the following cost estimates for extracting Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) from blood samples and buccal swabs:

*(a)* Blood samples: £203.97 for 48 test kits fully automated

*(b)* Buccal swab: £117.60 for 50 test kits manual

One test kit is used for each donor.

Because the kits for buccal swabs are not fully automated, there will be additional costs as the process requires more staff time.

### Coeliac Disease

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of people living with coeliac disease in England; what the evidential basis is for that estimate; and if he will make a statement. [304248]

**Ann Keen:** We have made no estimate of the number of people living with coeliac disease.

### Cord Blood

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of the umbilical cords of babies born alive in each of the last 10 years were donated for the harvesting of stem cells. [304109]

**Gillian Merron:** The total amount of units of umbilical cord blood processed and stored in the NHS Cord Blood Bank (the Bank) for the last 10 years are:

| | *Units banked per annum* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 862 |
| 1998 | 880 |
| 1999 | 944 |
| 2000 | 820 |
| 2001 | 962 |
| 2002 | 470 |
| 2003 | 997 |
| 2004 | 860 |
| 2005 | 1,076 |
| 2006 | 1,117 |
| 2007 | 1,342 |
| 2008 | 1,664 |
| 2009 year to date | 1,712 |
| Total | 12,856 |

A report commissioned by the Department entitled 'Cord Blood Banking in the UK: An International Comparison of Policy and Practice' estimated that, in 2007, the Bank collection rate represented about 0.13 per cent. of annual total births in the United Kingdom.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many stem cell donations from the NHS Cord Blood Bank were provided to patients in each year since 1996. [304106]

**Gillian Merron:** The number of cord blood units issued by the NHS Cord Blood Bank for transplant into patients each year since 1998 are:

| | *Issued* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 3 |
| 1999 | 14 |
| 2000 | 18 |
| 2001 | 10 |
| 2002 | 10 |
| 2003 | 10 |
| 2004 | 19 |
| 2005 | 27 |
| 2006 | 34 |
| 2007 | 44 |
| 2008 | 47 |
| 2009 (to date) | 43 |
| Total | 279 |

### Dangerous Dogs: Merseyside

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been admitted to hospital after being attacked by dogs in *(a)* Southport constituency and *(b)* Merseyside in the last five years. [304117]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is shown in the following tables:

*A count of finished admission episodes in Southport in which the cause of admission was being bitten or struck by a dog, 2004-05 to 2008-09*

| *Primary care trust (PCT) of residence* | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sefton PCT | 36 | 24 | 43 |

| *Residence PCT description* | *2005-06* | *2004-05* |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 35 | 37 |
| Southport and Formby PCT | 7 | 15 |
| South Sefton PCT | 28 | 22 |

*A count of finished admission episodes in Merseyside in which the cause of admission was being bitten or struck by a dog, 2004-05 to 2008-09*

| *PCT of residence* | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 279 | 238 | 287 |
| Halton and St. Helens PCT | 63 | 52 | 65 |
| Knowsley PCT | 43 | 38 | 47 |
| Liverpool PCT | 97 | 89 | 110 |
| Sefton PCT | 36 | 24 | 43 |
| Wirral PCT | 34 | 35 | 22 |

| *PCT of residence* | *2005-06* | *2004-05* |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 272 | 226 |
| Bebington and West Wirral PCT | 7 | * |
| Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT | 16 | * |
| Central Liverpool PCT | 56 | 56 |
| Halton PCT | 16 | 12 |
| Knowsley PCT | 25 | 36 |
| North Liverpool PCT | 36 | 27 |
| South Liverpool PCT | 19 | 15 |
| Southport and Formby PCT | 7 | 15 |
| South Sefton PCT | 28 | 22 |
| St. Helens PCT | 44 | 29 |

Notes:

1. Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

2. A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. However, admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

3. In Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) data cannot be filtered using Merseyside or Southport constituencies as the PQ requests, consequently data is provided using PCTs of residence that approximate to required areas.

Merseyside is made up of the following PCTs: Wirral PCT, Sefton PCT, Halton and St. Helens PCT, Liverpool and Knowsley PCT (or their equivalents in 2005-06 and 2004-05). Southport falls under Sefton PCT of Residence (or its equivalent in 2005-06 and 2004-05).

Owing to the fact that in July 2006, the NHS reorganised PCTs in England from 303 PCTs into 152, data from 2006-07 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years.

Data for the years 2005-06 and 2004-05 have been presented using the equivalent PCTs to the ones listed above. These are as follows: Sefton PCT = (Southport and Formby PCT, South Sefton PCT); Wirral PCT = (Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT, Bebington and West Wirral PCT); Liverpool PCT = (North Liverpool PCT, Central Liverpool PCT, South Liverpool PCT) and, Halton and St. Helens PCT = (St. Helens PCT, Halton PCT).

4. To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.

5. HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

6. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Source:

HES, Outpatients, The Information Centre for health and social care

## Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302419]

**Phil Hope:** The total cost of maintaining the Department's website in 2008-09 was £2,840,326.59. This figure has been calculated in line with Central Office of Information guidance: TG128 Measuring website costs. The forecast cost for maintaining the Department's website in 2009-10 is expected to be in line with the reported total figure for 2008-09.

A forecast figure for all websites within the Department's responsibility has not been provided, as this would include 71 remaining websites that we are converging or rationalising under Transformational Government. This would incur disproportionate costs.

## Departmental Legislation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [301252]

**Phil Hope:** The criminal offences which have been abolished since 1 May 2008 are as follows:

Offences under the Care Standards Act 2000 (insofar as those offences related to the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) or the Healthcare Commission—both bodies abolished) have been (or will be) repealed by the Health and Social Care Act 2008:-

Section 11 - carrying on or managing an establishment or agency without being registered;

Section 24 - failure to comply with conditions of registration without reasonable excuse;

Section 25 - power to create an offence in regulations for contravention of or failure to comply with regulations;

Section 26 - offences relating to false descriptions of establishments and agencies;

Section 27 - false statement in applications;

Section 28 - offence relating to failure to display certificate of registration;

Section 30 - provision is made for what happens if one of the offences is committed by a body corporate - if the offence is proved to have been committed by, or with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of any director, manager or secretary of the body corporate, or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, that director, manager, secretary or person purporting to act as such (as well as the body corporate) is guilty of the offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly;

Section 31(9) - offence relating to the obstructing of or failing to comply with entry and inspection by the CSCI or Healthcare Commission.

Offences under the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 have been (or will be) repealed by the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (due to abolition of Healthcare Commission and CSCI):

Section 67(5)and 89(5) - offence relating to the obstructing of or failing to comply with entry and inspection by the Healthcare Commission or CSCI;

Section 68(4) and 90(4) - offence relating to failure to comply with a Healthcare Commission request for documents or information or CSCI;

Section 69(3)or 91(3) - offence relating to failure to comply with a request for an explanation from the Healthcare Commission or CSCI;

Section 136 - offence of disclosure of confidential personal information held by the Healthcare Commission;

Section 146—provision is made for what happens if one of the offences is committed by a body corporate—if the offence is proved to have been committed by, or with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of any director, manager or secretary of the body corporate, or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, that director, manager, secretary or person purporting to act as such (as well as the body corporate) is guilty of the offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

However, many of those repealed under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 are to be re-enacted (broadly re-enacted) in regulations under the provision referred to in Part 1 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008, which will come into force at the same time that the repeal comes in to effect.

The criminal offences which have been created since 1 May 2008 are as follows:

*Offences in Part 1 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008:*

Section 10(1) - any person who carries on a regulated activity without being registered with the Care Quality Commission is guilty of an offence;

Section 33 - offence of failure, without reasonable excuse, to comply with conditions of registration with the Care Quality Commission;

Section 34 - offences relating to the carrying on or management of regulated activities while registration with the Care Quality Commission is suspended or where such registration has been cancelled;

Section 35 - regulation-making power to create offences for contravention of or failure to comply with regulations;

Section 36 - offence of false description of concerns, premises - any person who with intent to deceive gives any concern or premises a name or in any other way describes a premises so as to indicate that the carrying on of the concern is a regulated activity or that the premises are used for the carrying on of a regulated activity is guilty of an offence unless the person is registered in respect of the regulated activity in question and that registration is not suspended;

Section 37 - offence relation to making knowingly false statements in applications to the Care Quality Commission;

Section 63(7) - offence relating to the obstructing of or failing to comply with entry and inspection by the Care Quality Commission (without reasonable excuse);

Section 64(4) - offence relating to failure to comply with Care Quality Commission request for documents or information (without reasonable excuse);

Section 65(4) - offence relating to failure to comply with a request for an explanation from the Care Quality Commission (without reasonable excuse);

Section 76(2) - offence of disclosure of confidential personal information held by the Care Quality Commission;

Under section 90 of the Act provision is made for what happens if one of the offences is committed by a body corporate—if the offence is proved to have been committed by, or with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of any director, manager or secretary of the body corporate, or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, that director, manager, secretary or person purporting to act as such (as well as the body corporate) is guilty of the offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

"Regulated activities" (i.e. the definitions of what they are) are set out in regulations.

Section 4A(1) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 prohibits the placing in a woman of a human admixed embryo. Section 4A(2) (read with section 41) also makes it an offence to mix human gametes with animal gametes or to create, keep or use a human admixed embryo without a licence.

Section 21 of the Health Act 2009 introduced new offences in relation to tobacco by inserting new provisions into the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act 2002:-

New section 7A of that Act makes it an offence for a person in the course of a business to display tobacco products or cause tobacco products to be displayed, in a place in England, Wales and Northern Ireland;

New section 7B provides for exclusions from and defences to this offence;

New section 7C makes it an offence for a person to display or cause to be displayed the prices of tobacco products in breach of a requirement contained in regulations made under this section (such regulations can impose requirements in relation to the display in a place in England or Wales or Northern Ireland in the course of business of the prices of tobacco products);

New section 7D makes it an offence for a person who displays or causes to be displayed tobacco prices or their prices in breach of a requirement contained in regulations made under this section (such regulations can impose requirements in relation to the display in England or Wales or Northern Ireland in the course of a business of tobacco products or their prices on a website where tobacco products are offered for sale)

Section 22 of the Health Act 2009 also introduced a new section 3A into the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 allowing the appropriate national authority to make provision by regulations prohibiting the sale of tobacco from an automatic machine in England and Wales; these regulations must make provision as to the persons who are liable in the case of any breach of a prohibition, and where a prohibition is breached any person liable inn accordance with the regulations is guilty of an offence.

Section 23 makes similar provision in relation to Northern Ireland by adding a new article 4A into the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

Section 20 amended section 6 of the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act which automatically excluded specialist tobacconists from committing an offence under section 2 of that Act; under the amendments this exclusion will only apply in England, Wales and Northern Ireland if the tobacco advertisement complies with requirements, including those to be established in regulations.

## Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305380]

**Phil Hope:** The information is in the following table.

| | *Number of named day questions for answer* | *Number answered on the day specified* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | | |
| December | 53 | 50 | 94.3 |
| *2009* | | | |
| January | 71 | 66 | 93.0 |
| February | 101 | 93 | 92.1 |
| March | 111 | 102 | 91.9 |
| April | 74 | 72 | 97.3 |
| May | 48 | 46 | 95.8 |
| June | 103 | 98 | 95.1 |
| July | 91 | 78 | 85.7 |
| September | 76 | 76 | 100.0 |
| October | 60 | 56 | 93.3 |
| November | 92 | 87 | 94.6 |
| Total | 880 | 824 | 93.6 |

## Drugs: Misuse

**Mike Wood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on trends relating to the (i) age, (ii) sex, (iii) ethnicity and (iv) sexual orientation of (A) crack cocaine users, (B) heroin users and (C) problem drug users in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [305406]

**Gillian Merron:** The Government places great importance on the collection of trend data on drug use, and funds a number of strands of activity. The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System which is maintained and developed by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse's collects information about the impact of drug treatment on a range of groups of service users. The Home Office collects information annually through the British Crime Survey and has also commissioned national and regional estimates of the prevalence of opiate use and crack cocaine use. The Office of National Statistics publishes annual information about trends in drugs deaths. The Department of Health funds additional work by St. George's University of London through the national programme on substance abuse deaths which provides additional information on trends in drugs deaths.

Copies of the relevant reports can be found in the Library.

## Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Mike Wood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of placing every *(a)* crack cocaine and *(b)* heroin user receiving NHS treatment in a residential treatment programme. [305407]

**Gillian Merron:** Residential treatment is one of a number of treatment modalities for drug misuse. Before a drug user receives national health service care in a residential drug treatment service, care planning needs to be undertaken between the service user and their clinicians to assess whether it will help the user to change their behaviour and if so, the nature and duration of the treatment that will be needed. They will also consider the care that will be needed following residential treatment. Without such assessments it is not possible to estimate the cost of placing all problem drug users in residential treatment.

## EU Law

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* statutory instruments and *(b)* other regulations his Department has brought forward in the 2005 Parliament to meet obligations arising from EU law. [304177]

**Phil Hope:** Central records of statutory instruments made under specific powers have only been maintained by the Statutory Instruments Registrar since 2001. A record has been maintained since that time of statutory instruments made under powers in the European Communities Act 1972 in order to meet obligations arising from European Union law, but no record has been maintained of statutory instruments made under other legislation in order to meet such obligations.

There are no central records maintained of "other regulations". Since 2001 the Department has made 139 statutory instruments in order to meet obligations arising from EU Law, under powers contained in the European Communities Act 1972. A list of those instruments has been placed in the Library.

It would incur disproportionate cost to retrieve details of all such instruments since 1997.

## Exercise

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate has been made of the percentage of *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged (i) 18 to 25, (ii) 26 to 49, (iii) 50 to 69 and (iv) over 70 years old who undertake recommended levels of physical activity; and if he will make a statement. [304220]

**Gillian Merron:** Health Survey for England last measured the percentage of men and women meeting the Chief Medical Officer's recommendations on physical activity, broken down by age and gender in 2008, which will be published on 17 December 2009. Prior to this, a report from the 2006 survey has set out similar data and a copy of the report/data has already been placed in the Library.

## Fibromyalgia

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to increase knowledge of fibromyalgia amongst *(a)* the medical profession and *(b)* the wider public; [304296]

(2) how many people have been diagnosed with fibromyalgia in the last three years; [304297]

(3) what help his Department provides to people diagnosed with fibromyalgia. [304298]

**Ann Keen:** The number of people diagnosed with fibromyalgia is not collected.

Detailed advice on fibromyalgia, suitable for the medical profession and the wider public, has been made available on the NHS Choices and NHS Evidence websites at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/fibromyalgia/Pages/Introduction.aspx

www.evidence.nhs.uk/search.aspx?t=fibromyalgia

Although there is no cure for fibromyalgia patients are able to access treatments to ease their symptoms and improve the quality of life. Medications available include painkillers, muscle relaxants, and antidepressants.

## Health Professions: Equal Opportunities

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made on increasing the level of access of women to senior positions in the medical profession. [305004]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS Workforce Census shows that the number of women consultants working in the national health service has increased from around 4,000 in 1997 to almost 10,000 in 2008. The numbers are shown in the following table:

*Hospital and Community Health Services female medical consultants, England as at 30 September each year*

| | *Female consultants within medical specialties* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 4,351 |
| 1998 | 4,658 |
| 1999 | 5,002 |
| 2000 | 5,418 |
| 2001 | 5,911 |
| 2002 | 6,406 |
| 2003 | 7,010 |
| 2004 | 7,657 |
| 2005 | 8,170 |
| 2006 | 8,715 |
| 2007 | 9,131 |
| 2008 | 9,769 |

*Source:*
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

## Health Services: Greater London

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future provision of accident and emergency services in London North central. [305191]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** This is a matter for the local national health service.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of spending on acute services by his Department in London North central in the next five years. [305192]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Decisions on spending allocations for individual services are a matter for the local national health service. Revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2009-10 and 2010-11 were announced on 8 December 2008. PCTs received an average increase of 5.5 per cent. in 2009-10 and will receive an average increase of 5.5 per cent. 2010-11, a total increase in funding of £8.6 billion.

## Health Services: Inspections

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* the Care Quality Commission and *(b)* its predecessor organisations have spent on inspection visits in each year since 1997-98. [304755]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Care Quality Commission tell us that it does not hold the information in the format requested.

The accounts of the Commission for Social Care Inspection, National Commission for Social Care, Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection and the Commission for Health Improvement did not provide specific costs relating to inspections.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many inspectors the Care Quality Commission employs; and how many inspectors its predecessor organisations employed in each year since 1997-98. [304768]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Care Quality Commission has provided the following information.

*Number for inspectors employed each year by the health and social care regulators since 2002-03*

| | National Commission for Social Care | Commission for Social Care Inspection | Healthcare Commission | Care Quality Commission |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 1,027 | — | — | — |
| 2003-04 | 1,072 | — | — | — |
| 2004-05 | — | 1,397 | — | — |
| 2005-06 | — | 1,317 | 137 | — |
| 2006-07 | — | 1,254 | 164 | — |
| 2007-08 | — | 960 | 130 | — |
| 2008-09 | — | 829 | 123 | — |
| 2009-10 | — | — | — | [1]913 |

[1] The figure for 2009-10 also includes assessors.

The decrease in 2007-08 is because a number of inspectors were transferred to Ofsted in that year, as responsibility for the inspection of child-care services was transferred.

The Care Quality Commission is unable to provide figures earlier than 2002-03 for social care inspectors. Prior to that date local authorities carried out the inspection of social care.

The Commission does not hold figures earlier than 2005-06 for health care inspectors.

### Heart Diseases: Health Services

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take in response to the National Specialist Commissioning Group's document for designation of Grown-Ups with Congenital Heart Disease Specialist Centres; and if he will make a statement. [304418]

**Ann Keen:** Designation of specialised services such as services for Grown-Ups with Congenital Heart Disease is a formal process of checking that service providers meet certain standards and that services are able to meet demand and to deliver the best possible outcomes for patients and are good value for money. The service specification standards included in the Grown-Ups with Congenital Heart Disease designation document have been drawn up to assist this process by providing a common set of criteria against which services can be assessed. It is the responsibility of the 10 Specialised Commissioning Groups in England working on behalf of their constituent primary care trusts to decide on the relative priority of work on the specialised services within their designation programmes.

### Hospitals: Admissions

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to NHS organisations on the length of stay of patients in *(a)* medical and *(b)* surgical admission units. [304703]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** None.

### Hospitals: Hygiene

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effects of poor hand hygiene on *(a)* infection and *(b)* mortality rates in hospitals; [304101]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of each hand hygiene initiative undertaken in hospitals; [304183]

(3) how much his Department spent to increase levels of compliance with hand hygiene procedures in hospitals in the last 12 months. [304184]

**Ann Keen:** Hand hygiene is only one part of our comprehensive strategy to reduce health care associated infections, and the evidence base shows that it prevents infections. All acute trusts signed up to the National Patient Safety Agency's 'cleanyourhands' campaign and independent evaluation of this campaign suggests a strong association with a reduction in infections. We do not specifically fund or assess individual hospital campaigns and mortality rates have not been specifically investigated.

### Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects on the rapidity of the spread of hospital-acquired infections of *(a)* the use of disposable blood pressure cuffs, *(b)* the practice of infusing hospital equipment with silver ion particles and *(c)* banning hospital staff from wearing neckties. [304146]

**Ann Keen:** Devices such as silver alloy coated catheters aim to prevent infections rather than reduce transmission. Although specific information on the effect of blood pressure cuffs and neckties on transmissions is not available, they will be expected to contribute if part of a systematic approach to infection control. However, manufacturers of new devices are able to submit their products to the Rapid Review Panel for evaluation.

### Hospitals: Manpower

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* managers and *(b)* senior managers were in post at each hospital in the North West in each of the last five years. [[illegible]]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. Non-medical workforce census data are collected by trust, so hospital level data are not available. The information that is available is shown in the following tables:

*National Health Service Hospital and Community Health Services: Senior Managers and Managers in the North West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area by organisation as at 30 September. Each year (as full time equivalents)*

| | 2004 | | | 2005 | | | 2006 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* |
| North West SHA area | 4,358 | 1,709 | 2,649 | 4,522 | 1,527 | 2,995 | 4,345 | 1,514 | 2,831 |
| Five Boroughs Partnership National Health Service Trust | 75 | 54 | 21 | 78 | 58 | 21 | 81 | 21 | 60 |
| Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust | 71 | 36 | 35 | 76 | 17 | 58 | 81 | 17 | 64 |
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust (PCT) | 58 | 19 | 39 | 53 | 33 | 20 | 52 | 33 | 20 |
| Blackburn with Darwen PCT | 24 | 10 | 15 | 24 | 10 | 15 | 30 | 12 | 18 |
| Blackpool PCT | 31 | 4 | 27 | 39 | 5 | 34 | 19 | 5 | 14 |
| Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust | 100 | 46 | 54 | 97 | 39 | 58 | 94 | 36 | 58 |
| Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust | 50 | 10 | 40 | 55 | 19 | 36 | 48 | 21 | 27 |
| Bolton PCT | 64 | 48 | 16 | 60 | 8 | 53 | 62 | 7 | 55 |
| Bolton, Salford and Trafford Mental Health NHS Trust | 72 | 42 | 30 | 69 | 46 | 23 | 70 | 49 | 21 |
| Bury PCT | 30 | 30 | 0 | 35 | 35 | 0 | 45 | 41 | 4 |
| Calderstones NHS Trust | 34 | 27 | 7 | 33 | 17 | 16 | 29 | 16 | 14 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 74 | 34 | 41 | 104 | 56 | 48 | 92 | 20 | 72 |
| Central Lancashire PCT | 118 | 38 | 80 | 110 | 29 | 81 | 94 | 30 | 64 |
| Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust | 68 | 25 | 43 | 74 | 27 | 47 | 80 | 28 | 52 |
| Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust | 41 | 13 | 28 | 41 | 9 | 32 | 37 | 10 | 27 |
| Christie Hospital NHS Trust | 53 | 45 | 8 | 16 | 3 | 13 | 16 | 3 | 13 |
| Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Trust | 23 | 19 | 4 | 26 | 20 | 6 | 13 | 11 | 2 |
| Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 72 | 23 | 49 | 78 | 19 | 60 | 72 | 26 | 46 |
| Cumbria PCT | 144 | 52 | 92 | 88 | 21 | 67 | 73 | 17 | 56 |
| East Cheshire NHS Trust | 28 | 19 | 9 | 51 | 9 | 42 | 53 | 8 | 45 |
| East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust | 98 | 58 | 40 | 100 | 62 | 37 | 99 | 62 | 37 |

*National Health Service Hospital and Community Health Services: Senior Managers and Managers in the North West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area by organisation as at 30 September. Each year (as full time equivalents)*

| | 2004 | | | 2005 | | | 2006 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* |
| East Lancashire PCT | 42 | 21 | 21 | 43 | 23 | 20 | 51 | 22 | 29 |
| Halton and St Helens PCT | 70 | 24 | 45 | 63 | 24 | 40 | 69 | 28 | 41 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | 38 | 27 | 11 | 44 | 14 | 30 | 40 | 20 | 20 |
| Knowsley PCT | 29 | 4 | 25 | 39 | 7 | 32 | 43 | 4 | 40 |
| Lancashire Care NHS Trust | 55 | 48 | 7 | 46 | 3 | 43 | 75 | 25 | 50 |
| Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 109 | 12 | 96 | 126 | 7 | 119 | 122 | 8 | 114 |
| Liverpool PCT | 155 | 64 | 91 | 201 | 74 | 127 | 191 | 57 | 133 |
| Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust | 24 | 8 | 16 | 18 | 3 | 15 | 32 | 18 | 14 |
| Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust | 52 | 37 | 15 | 57 | 41 | 16 | 55 | 40 | 15 |
| Manchester PCT | 149 | 17 | 133 | 216 | 25 | 192 | 196 | 70 | 126 |
| Mersey Care NHS Trust | 121 | 19 | 102 | 99 | 46 | 53 | 84 | 39 | 46 |
| Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust | 123 | 70 | 53 | 132 | 78 | 54 | 117 | 57 | 60 |
| North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 87 | 6 | 81 | 77 | 4 | 73 | 72 | 4 | 69 |
| North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 52 | 14 | 38 | 61 | 24 | 37 | 63 | 29 | 34 |
| North Cumbria Mental Health and Learning Disabilities NHS Trust | 25 | 15 | 10 | 25 | 12 | 13 | 28 | 13 | 15 |
| North Lancashire PCT | 62 | 13 | 49 | 48 | 9 | 39 | 69 | 14 | 55 |
| North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust | 135 | 41 | 94 | 200 | 72 | 128 | 240 | 90 | 150 |
| North West SHA | 230 | 56 | 174 | 243 | 52 | 191 | 185 | 52 | 133 |
| Oldham PCT | 32 | 5 | 27 | 36 | 5 | 31 | 34 | 5 | 29 |
| Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 120 | 34 | 86 | 125 | 32 | 93 | 131 | 31 | 100 |
| Pennine Care NHS Trust | 42 | 15 | 27 | 45 | 13 | 33 | 48 | 15 | 34 |
| Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust | 119 | 39 | 80 | 128 | 44 | 84 | 136 | 65 | 71 |

*National Health Service Hospital and Community Health Services: Senior Managers and Managers in the North West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area by organisation as at 30 September. Each year (as full time equivalents)*

| | 2004 | | | 2005 | | | 2006 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* |
| Royal Liverpool Children's' Hospital NHS Trust | 52 | 20 | 32 | 58 | 24 | 34 | 53 | 20 | 33 |
| Salford PCT | 111 | 27 | 84 | 127 | 21 | 106 | 109 | 20 | 89 |
| Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust | 79 | 32 | 47 | 54 | 24 | 30 | 56 | 22 | 34 |
| Sefton PCT | 61 | 28 | 33 | 94 | 10 | 84 | 26 | 9 | 17 |
| South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust | 59 | 17 | 42 | 64 | 20 | 44 | 56 | 9 | 47 |
| Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust | 26 | 8 | 18 | 25 | 8 | 17 | 23 | 13 | 10 |
| St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust | 43 | 24 | 19 | 50 | 24 | 26 | 51 | 20 | 31 |
| Stockport NHS Trust | 57 | 19 | 38 | 61 | 20 | 40 | 58 | 19 | 38 |
| Stockport PCT | 55 | 38 | 17 | 30 | 5 | 25 | 38 | 8 | 30 |
| Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust | 42 | 7 | 35 | 41 | 7 | 34 | 24 | 7 | 17 |
| Tameside and Glossop PCT | 60 | 25 | 36 | 68 | 28 | 40 | 58 | 22 | 35 |
| The Cardiothoracic Centre - Liverpool NHS Trust | 28 | 28 | 0 | 20 | 6 | 15 | 27 | 8 | 19 |
| The Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust | 51 | 30 | 21 | 50 | 30 | 20 | 43 | 25 | 17 |
| The Wirral Hospital NHS Trust | 48 | 24 | 24 | 48 | 24 | 24 | 49 | 25 | 24 |
| Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust | 43 | 15 | 28 | 34 | 12 | 23 | 30 | 9 | 21 |
| Trafford PCT | 50 | 8 | 42 | 47 | 9 | 38 | 61 | 10 | 51 |
| Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Trust | 36 | 20 | 16 | 33 | 14 | 19 | 35 | 19 | 16 |
| Warrington PCT | 36 | 24 | 12 | 40 | 23 | 17 | 36 | 11 | 25 |
| West Cheshire PCT | 62 | 24 | 39 | 67 | 25 | 42 | 49 | 17 | 32 |
| Wirral PCT | 86 | 25 | 61 | 65 | 14 | 51 | 71 | 13 | 58 |
| Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust | 73 | 28 | 45 | 64 | 27 | 36 | 71 | 30 | 42 |

| | 2007 | | | 2008 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* |
| North West SHA area | 4,596 | 1,598 | 2,998 | 5,164 | 1,793 | 3,371 |
| Five Boroughs Partnership National Health Service Trust | 72 | 23 | 49 | 70 | 22 | 47 |
| Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust | 84 | 19 | 65 | 96 | 27 | 69 |
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust (PCT) | 65 | 36 | 30 | 94 | 66 | 28 |
| Blackburn with Darwen PCT | 92 | 11 | 81 | 103 | 14 | 89 |

| | 2007 | | | 2008 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* |
| Blackpool PCT | 27 | 7 | 20 | 35 | 5 | 30 |
| Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust | 94 | 29 | 66 | 90 | 9 | 81 |
| Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust | 44 | 6 | 38 | 48 | 11 | 37 |
| Bolton PCT | 55 | 7 | 48 | 61 | 11 | 50 |
| Bolton, Salford and Trafford Mental Health NHS Trust | 86 | 48 | 37 | 94 | 52 | 41 |
| Bury PCT | 52 | 45 | 7 | 73 | 61 | 11 |
| Calderstones NHS Trust | 32 | 18 | 14 | 32 | 17 | 15 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 75 | 19 | 56 | 92 | 18 | 74 |
| Central Lancashire PCT | 153 | 40 | 113 | 160 | 45 | 115 |
| Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust | 90 | 29 | 61 | 240 | 58 | 181 |
| Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust | 33 | 12 | 21 | 37 | 13 | 24 |
| Christie Hospital NHS Trust | 69 | 20 | 50 | 22 | 5 | 17 |
| Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Trust | 11 | 9 | 2 | 34 | 17 | 17 |
| Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 66 | 21 | 44 | 65 | 19 | 46 |
| Cumbria PCT | 73 | 29 | 44 | 83 | 48 | 35 |
| East Cheshire NHS Trust | 49 | 9 | 40 | 47 | 8 | 40 |
| East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust | 103 | 44 | 59 | 100 | 56 | 44 |
| East Lancashire PCT | 89 | 37 | 52 | 37 | 21 | 17 |
| Halton and St Helens PCT | 36 | 12 | 24 | 47 | 20 | 28 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | 44 | 7 | 37 | 78 | 21 | 57 |
| Knowsley PCT | 47 | 6 | 41 | 51 | 18 | 33 |
| Lancashire Care NHS Trust | 80 | 36 | 43 | 87 | 38 | 50 |
| Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 78 | 14 | 64 | 86 | 18 | 68 |
| Liverpool PCT | 193 | 40 | 152 | 235 | 77 | 158 |
| Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust | 34 | 19 | 15 | 33 | 16 | 17 |
| Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust | 42 | 41 | 1 | 46 | 40 | 5 |
| Manchester PCT | 161 | 36 | 124 | 180 | 46 | 134 |
| Mersey Care NHS Trust | 63 | 32 | 31 | 70 | 33 | 37 |
| Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust | 115 | 35 | 80 | 113 | 30 | 83 |
| North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 74 | 10 | 64 | 73 | 10 | 63 |
| North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 88 | 42 | 45 | 93 | 46 | 47 |
| North Cumbria Mental Health and Learning Disabilities NHS Trust | 31 | 19 | 12 | 35 | 23 | 11 |
| North Lancashire PCT | 62 | 9 | 53 | 83 | 4 | 79 |
| North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust | 230 | 75 | 155 | 221 | 74 | 146 |
| North West SHA | 154 | 106 | 48 | 178 | 98 | 80 |
| Oldham PCT | 33 | 5 | 28 | 42 | 18 | 24 |
| Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 123 | 34 | 89 | 130 | 26 | 104 |
| Pennine Care NHS Trust | 48 | 13 | 35 | 48 | 12 | 30 |
| Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust | 215 | 87 | 128 | 217 | 94 | 123 |
| Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital NHS Trust | 54 | 22 | 32 | 56 | 21 | 35 |
| Salford PCT | 112 | 22 | 90 | 127 | 25 | 102 |
| Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust | 60 | 21 | 39 | 61 | 19 | 42 |
| Sefton PCT | 26 | 7 | 19 | 25 | 8 | 17 |
| South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust | 67 | 18 | 49 | 74 | 18 | 56 |
| Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust | 20 | 11 | 9 | 25 | 7 | 18 |

| | 2007 | | | 2008 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* | *All managers* | *Senior managers* | *Managers* |
| St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust | 54 | 21 | 33 | 53 | 23 | 30 |
| Stockport NHS Trust | 65 | 21 | 44 | 75 | 20 | 54 |
| Stockport PCT | 50 | 18 | 32 | 51 | 30 | 20 |
| Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust | 51 | 15 | 36 | 52 | 17 | 35 |
| Tameside and Glossop PCT | 70 | 37 | 34 | 89 | 32 | 57 |
| The Cardiothoracic Centre - Liverpool NHS Trust | 24 | 15 | 8 | 30 | 16 | 14 |
| The Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust | 69 | 34 | 36 | 71 | 31 | 40 |
| The Wirral Hospital NHS Trust | 51 | 27 | 24 | 65 | 35 | 30 |
| Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust | 28 | 9 | 19 | 45 | 23 | 22 |
| Trafford PCT | 48 | 13 | 35 | 72 | 16 | 56 |
| Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Trust | 30 | 18 | 11 | 28 | 14 | 13 |
| Warrington PCT | 34 | 5 | 29 | 45 | 7 | 38 |
| West Cheshire PCT | 49 | 24 | 26 | 61 | 22 | 39 |
| Wirral PCT | 90 | 8 | 82 | 119 | 18 | 101 |
| Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust | 79 | 37 | 43 | 84 | 26 | 58 |

*Notes:*
1. PCTs, SHAs and ambulance trusts have been mapped to their current organisational structure.
2. Full time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care.

## Hospitals: South East

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many redundancies there were in each hospital trust in the South East in each of the last 12 months. [304107]

**Gillian Merron:** Monthly redundancy figures for individual trusts are not held centrally. Quarterly compulsory redundancy figures for individual strategic health authorities (SHAs) are held centrally. The figures for the two SHAs in the South East region for the last four quarters are as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *Total for quarter 2 2009-10* | |
| South Central (SC) SHA | 9 |
| South East Coast (SEC) SHA | 7 |
| Total | 16 |
| | |
| *Totals for quarter 1 2009-10* | |
| SCSHA | 18 |
| SEC SHA | 23 |
| Total | 41 |
| | |
| *Totals for quarter 4 2008-09* | |
| SCSHA | 23 |
| SEC SHA | 20 |
| Total | 43 |
| | |
| *Totals for quarter 3 2008-09* | |
| SCSHA | 13 |
| SEC SHA | 1 |
| Total | 14 |

From 2009-10 foundation trust data are no longer centrally collected. In previous years their returns were voluntary.

## Influenza: Stockport

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospitalisations and *(b)* deaths in the Stockport Primary Care Trust area related to (i) swine influenza and (ii) seasonal influenza there were in the 12 months to 1 December 2009. [304123]

**Gillian Merron:** The swine flu hospital data collected by the Department are not broken down by primary care trust (PCTs). They are collated for acute trusts rather than PCT areas so precise figures for Stockport PCT are not available.

The data collected show that Stockport NHS Foundation Trust has reported 108 patients were admitted with H1N1 swine flu (swabbed or clinically presumed) between 6 July and 1 December 2009. Data on hospital admissions related to swine flu were not collected prior to 6 July. The above figures include all patients reported by the hospital regardless of where they are resident, so may include non-Stockport residents. The figure will not include any residents of the Stockport PCT area who have been admitted to other hospitals with swine flu.

The Department can not release a breakdown of swine flu related deaths in individual PCTs as to do so could breach the confidentiality of patients and their relatives. Details of these deaths were supplied in strict confidence.

The Department does not collect data on seasonal flu hospitalisations and deaths.

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people in the Stockport Primary Care Trust area to whom it plans to offer the seasonal influenza vaccination. [304124]

**Gillian Merron:** Estimates suggest that there are about 85,000 people in Stockport Primary Care Trust area that fall within the groups eligible to receive the seasonal influenza vaccine.

Frontline health care workers involved in direct patient care can also receive the seasonal influenza vaccine. There are an estimated 4,000 people who fall into this category working in Stockport national health service trusts.

### Legislation

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pieces of primary legislation sponsored by his Department have not had commencement clauses since 1997. [304848]

**Phil Hope:** All pieces of primary legislation sponsored by the Department since 1997 include a commencement provision.

### Medical Treatments

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS trusts will be the preferred provider under the proposed patient entitlement to treatment if a patient cannot be seen within the relevant period and desires an alternative provider. [304264]

**Ann Keen:** Under the proposed new patient right, if access to the relevant service is inappropriately delayed, the national health service would be required to take all reasonable steps to offer that patient a range of alternative providers which would be able to provide the service sooner than the original provider, if this is what the patient wants. Where possible, the range of alternative providers should include NHS providers and private providers which meet NHS standards and the NHS tariff.

The patient would have a choice between their original provider or one of the range of alternatives.

### Midwives: Manpower

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent midwives were in post at each hospital in the North West providing maternity services in each of the last five years. [304668]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. Non-medical work force census data are collected by trust, so hospital level data are not available. The information that is available is shown in the following table:

*National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified midwives in the maternity services area of work in the North West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area by organisation as at 30 September each year (as full-time equivalents)*

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North West SHA area | 3,242 | 3,085 | 3,130 | 3,103 | 3,016 |
| Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust | 103 | 105 | 91 | 85 | 92 |
| Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust | 153 | 156 | 149 | 132 | 131 |
| Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Primary Care Trust (PCT) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bury PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust | 183 | 199 | 220 | 264 | 262 |
| Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 106 | 103 | 100 | 93 | 95 |
| Cumbria and Lancashire SHA | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East Cheshire NHS Trust | 70 | 71 | 63 | 66 | 61 |
| East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust | 245 | 254 | 248 | 229 | 212 |
| East Lancashire PCT | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Halton and St. Helens PCT | 0 | 0 | 27 | 24 | 25 |
| Halton PCT | 28 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 143 | 148 | 150 | 146 | 167 |
| Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust | 277 | 281 | 278 | 267 | 268 |
| Manchester PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Mersey Care NHS Trust | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust | 306 | 129 | 136 | 132 | 123 |
| North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 100 | 104 | 101 | 104 | 104 |
| North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 127 | 119 | 117 | 121 | 116 |
| North West Strategic Health Authority | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 335 | 326 | 346 | 346 | 333 |
| Rochdale PCT | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust | 98 | 98 | 100 | 98 | 104 |
| South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust | 103 | 113 | 115 | 120 | 120 |
| Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust | 93 | 99 | 93 | 90 | 96 |
| St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust | 108 | 104 | 106 | 104 | 107 |
| Stockport NHS Trust | 131 | 138 | 145 | 143 | 141 |
| Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust | 112 | 104 | 107 | 111 | 103 |
| The Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust | 97 | 96 | 100 | 106 | 108 |
| The Wirral Hospital NHS Trust | 148 | 154 | 166 | 153 | 74 |
| Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust | 62 | 58 | 65 | 62 | 63 |
| West Cheshire PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust | 100 | 98 | 105 | 103 | 108 |

*Note:*
Full time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number
*Source:*
The NHS information Centre for health and social care

### NHS: Data Protection

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what breaches of data protection legislation have been recorded in the NHS in each of the last five years; and how many formal undertakings from the Information Commissioner have been signed by NHS organisations consequent on a breach of the legislation. [304243]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** National health service organisations are directly responsible for compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998. NHS organisations should also publish serious data loss incidents in their annual reports and notify their strategic health authority (SHA). In turn, SHAs should publish quarterly data losses regarding its NHS organisations on their websites.

It is for the Information Commissioner and the courts to determine whether or not data protection legislation has been breached in any particular case. Details of formal undertakings are published on the Information Commissioner's website.

## NHS: DHL

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are being used to monitor the performance of DHL under its contract for NHS supply and delivery of medical supplies and equipment; and if he will make a statement. [304253]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department signed a 10-year Master Services Agreement with DHL on 4 September 2006 for the provision of procurement and supply chain services, trading under the name of NHS Supply Chain.

Schedule 23 of the Master Services Agreement sets out the Key Performance Indicators and post-transition Key Performance Indicators. The post-transition phase began in August 2007.

A copy of Schedule 23 of the Master Services Agreement has been placed in the Library.

## NHS: Finance

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget is of each NHS trust and NHS foundation trust hospital in England for 2009-10. [304892]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The forecast turnover for the 2009-10 financial year of every NHS trust in England is published in the most recent edition of *The Quarter*, which can be found on the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_087335

Information on NHS foundation trust plans for the 2009-10 financial year can be found on the website of Monitor, the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts at:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/home/our-publications/browse-category/reports-nhs-foundation-trusts/reviews-nhs-foundation-trusts-an-4

## NHS: Information and Communications Technology

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has decided whether BT and CSC have met the criteria published by Connecting for Health on 29 October 2009 for delivery of IT solutions to the NHS through the National Programme for IT. [304240]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department set an end of November deadline for achieving significant progress, in terms of implementing information systems which support electronic records for patients, against published criteria for success. It will take some time to judge progress against all of the criteria and we are currently reviewing all of the outcomes in order to decide the best way forward.

**Mr. Bacon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many open issues are logged against the Lorenzo software system. [303848]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** As at 1 December 2009, the number of open issues logged against the Lorenzo software system by live national health service trusts was 453.

Many of the open issues are of low business impact, and there is a rolling schedule to resolve them in line with trusts' priorities.

## NHSU

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment has been made of the performance of the NHS University against its objectives. [304421]

**Ann Keen:** A review was commissioned from Sir William Wells. This reported in 2004 and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/FreedomOfInformation/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/FOIreleases/DH_073921

A copy has been placed in the Library.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS University has cost in each year since its establishment. [304422]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS University (NHSU) was launched in December 2003.

The budget for NHSU was £27 million in 2003-04, and £43.676 million in 2004-05.

NHSU was officially dissolved on 31 July 2005.

## Patient Choice Schemes

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the extended choice network rules. [304110]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** A copy of the Extended Choice Network Rules has been placed in the Library.

## Pharmacy

**[illegible]dra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for [illegible]w many pharmacies in each primary care [illegible] area have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each of the last five years. [304498]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information available on national health service community pharmacies in England has been placed in the Library.

## Social Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 4.7 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, for what reasons *(a)* chiropody and *(b)* podiatry are exempted from services included within the definition of personal care. [304786]

**Phil Hope:** The definition of personal care is based on the draft regulations being made under sections 8 and 20 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008, which exclude chiropody and podiatry. These services are within the scope of health care services, rather than personal care.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to table 2 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what methodology was used to calculate the additional costs; and whether the figures given for additional costs relate to millions of pounds. [304794]

**Phil Hope:** The estimated additional costs for older people are based on analyses from the Personal Social Services Research Unit's (PSSRU) micro-simulation model for older people. The PSSRU cost estimates are broken down into groups of individuals with difficulty with different total numbers of activities of daily living (ADLs) on the basis of the average predicted need for each group—as referred to in table 1 of the impact assessment.

The additional categories not considered by PSSRU—that is, the estimates of residential care and informal care switchers—are then added. All of the residential care switchers are assumed to have difficulty with four or more ADLs.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to table 2 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, from what source he derived the number of younger adults described as *(a)* already receiving state-funded care and *(b)* self-funding plus unmet need. [304795]

**Phil Hope:** The estimate of 110,000 younger adults eligible for free personal care at home is based principally on the referrals, assessments and packages of care (RAP) data from councils for 2007-08. In the absence of data on the proportion of younger service users whose needs are assessed as critical under fair access to care services (FACS) critical, for the purposes of the impact assessment, it is assumed that there could be some 100,000 younger adult local authority funded users receiving personal care in the critical category. It is likely that most of these receive their care free, as their incomes are generally low. It has therefore been assumed that 90 per cent. already receive free personal care at home and that 10 per cent. make a means-tested contribution towards the cost.

Little is known about the number of younger adults who currently fund their own care at home. It has been assumed that around a further 10,000 younger adults may be brought under state funding following the introduction of the Personal Care at Home Bill.

The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10,000 to reflect the uncertainty. The figure of 110,000 should therefore be treated as an estimate.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to table 2 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, from what source the costs referred to in bullet 4 of Annex A were derived. [304797]

**Phil Hope:** Annex A sets out the assumptions on which the analysis is based. Bullet 4 explains that, in the absence of data giving the relationship between costs and average predicted need, the assumption has been made that the relationship is linear, i.e. that twice the predicted need score on this measure is equivalent to twice the weekly care costs.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, whether reablement packages will cover the costs of *(a)* hardware and *(b)* labour. [304807]

**Phil Hope:** We understand that there is a great deal of variability in both the costs of reablement across councils and the different types of services which may be available in particular localities. In our consultation, "Personal Care at Home: a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, we suggest that a reablement package could include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, installation of telecare or adaptations to the house. The £1,000 per person figure referred to is based on an estimate of 30 hours of care at £30 an hour and an allowance for some equipment. The precise nature of any package would be a matter for local decision, based on an assessment of the person's needs.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 1.6 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, in what circumstances the Government provides social care where private insurance cover has proved inadequate. [304808]

**Phil Hope:** Councils currently assess needs and means in reaching decisions on whether or not to provide state funded social care. For people with high needs who are not eligible on the grounds of means, the lack of a private insurance market has meant they may have already incurred significant costs in meeting their own care needs. As part of plans for a national care service, we have been considering a number of proposals which include insurance schemes, so that people with high care needs will not find themselves faced with unexpected care costs.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 2.2 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what estimate he has made of the amount of funding referred to. [304809]

**Phil Hope:** No estimate has been made on future investment in social care. However, we know that, in order to ensure that a new care and support system is affordable, we will need to be prepared to take tough decisions to ensure that existing resources are targeted on those who need them the most. But we know that the money already in the system will not be enough.

In 20 years' time, we expect there to be 1.7 million more adults needing care and support than there are now and proportionately fewer people of working age to help pay for the funding of that care and support. We will not be able to pay for the care that is needed simply by reprioritising the money we already have. As a society, we are going to have to spend more on care and support if we are to maintain a care and support system that gives older people and disabled people quality of life, dignity and peace of mind about their future care costs.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 2.2 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, for what reasons the proposal was not included in the Green Paper. [304810]

**Phil Hope:** Free personal care for those with the highest needs in their own home was not considered in the Green Paper because it is a step towards that National Care Service. The Green Paper puts forward fundamental proposals—partnership, insurance and comprehensive—for the National Care Service to reform the system for all adults.

Proposals for reablement put forward in the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill were also considered as part of the Green Paper.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the costs of taxpayer-funded personal care as set out in the Personal Care at Home Bill if the assumptions of the impact assessment were applied to population projections for *(a)* 2015, *(b)* 2020, *(c)* 2025 and *(d)* 2030. [304847]

**Phil Hope:** The impact assessment estimates the first full year costs of extending free personal care at home to those with the highest needs at £537 million. It also estimates the costs of providing reablement services over the same period at £130 million, bringing the total costs of the proposals to approximately £670 million. The impact assessment only covers the period from October 2010 to the end of 2012-13. Estimating beyond this point to 2015, 2020, 2025 and 2030 is problematic because of the uncertainties involved. The proposals here are intended as a step towards a fully integrated National Care Service, at which point a different set of assumptions may need to be applied.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the checklist of impact tests in the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, whether the results of the human rights impact test have been published. [304851]

**Phil Hope:** I sent a memorandum to my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon and Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights (Mr. Dismore), on 27 November 2009. The memorandum details the human rights implications of the Personal Care at Home Bill. A copy has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the relative effects on the environment of care delivered at home and in a residential home setting. [304852]

**Phil Hope:** A sustainable development impact test has not been carried out as part of the impact assessment. The policy will help people to remain living at home for longer where this is what they wish. The environmental impact of the policy is likely to be negligible.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average lifespan of people who are Fair Access to Care Services critical; and what assumptions his Department has made on the effect on life expectancy of enactment of his legislative proposals on personal care at home. [304844]

**Phil Hope:** No estimate or assumption of the average lifespan or life expectancy of those who will benefit from the legislation have been made. Costings have been made on the estimated numbers of people meeting the criteria in any one year, with the exception of the costs of reablement and the costs of additional assessment, which are based on the flow of new entrants over the course of a year.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what the *(a)* net benefit and *(b)* net benefit range associated with his legislative proposals is. [304848]

**Phil Hope:** The impact assessment has not attempted to specify the net benefit or a net benefit range owing to uncertainty in estimating a number of specific benefits, that is, the benefits from meeting unmet need, re-ablement and reducing the savings disincentive. This notwithstanding, the areas in which benefits have been quantified, namely those people in highest need who will receive free personal care at home, equity distribution and the extended insurance coverage, justify the proposed policy on cost-benefit grounds.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what plans he has for meeting transition costs. [304850]

**Phil Hope:** A one-off transition cost of £335 million is set out in the impact assessment for the first half-year of the policy, from October 2010. Thereafter, we do not consider that there will be transition costs associated with this for local authorities. However, we will be reviewing the impact of the policy after 12-18 months to ensure that it is being applied properly and that there are no unforeseen costs or perverse incentives.

### South East Coast Strategic Health Authority

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the capitation cost was of *(a)* the Director and *(b)* other staff in Communications and Engagement of the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority in the latest year for which information is available. [304 [illegible]]

**Gillian Merron:** The last full year for which information about remuneration for the Director of Communications and Engagement of the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority (SHA) is available is 2008-09. This is published in the SHA's 'Annual Report 2008-09', a copy of which has been placed in the Library. Information about costs relating to the SHA Director of Communications and Engagement's staff is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority paid to public relations companies in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, and what budget has been set for such expenditure in 2009-10; [304532]

(2) what the cost was of the recent independent survey of the regional stakeholders of the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority undertaken as part of the Healthier people, excellent care programme; [304533]

(3) how much the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority spent on gathering public opinion and opinion polling in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; and what budget has been set for such expenditure in 2009-10. [304534]

**Gillian Merron:** The information requested is not collected centrally. These are matters for the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority.

## Swine Flu: Vaccination

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people to whom it plans to offer the swine influenza vaccination *(a)* in the Stockport Primary Care Trust area and *(b)* nationally. [304120]

**Gillian Merron:** The estimated number of people in the Stockport Primary Care Trust area who fall into a priority group for H1N1 influenza vaccination is about 55,000. There are an estimated 15,000 children aged over six months and under five years that would fall into the extended H1N1 vaccination programme.

The estimated number of people in England who fall into a priority group for H1N1 influenza vaccination is about 9.5 million. The estimated number of children in England who fall into the group aged over six months and under five years is about 2.75 million.

Health care workers involved in direct patient care can also receive the H1N1 vaccine. This applies to about 1 million individuals in England. There are an estimated 4,000 people who fall into this category working in Stockport national health service trusts.

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doses of swine influenza vaccine had been distributed to health centres *(a)* in the Stockport Primary Care Trust area and *(b)* nationally by 1 December 2009. [304192]

**Gillian Merron:** By 1 December 2009, 68,000 doses of swine influenza vaccine have been delivered to the Stockport primary care trust area. By the same date 8.8 million doses of swine flu vaccine had been delivered nationally.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used by primary care trusts to prioritise individuals for swine influenza vaccinations. [304250]

**Gillian Merron:** The priority groups for swine flu vaccination were identified in the letter from the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) dated 13 August 2009, and this has been reiterated in subsequent communications to National Health Service staff. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.

The following groups were initially prioritised for vaccination in the following order:

individuals aged six months and up to 65 years in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups;

all pregnant women;

household contacts of immunocompromised individuals; and

people aged 65 and over in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups.

These groups were selected because they are at highest risk of severe illness. As vaccine became available, in some areas priority groups i to iii have been vaccinated concurrently, rather than in order of priority.

In addition to these groups, frontline health and social care workers have been offered the vaccine at the same time as the first clinical risk group as they are at increased risk of infection and of transmitting that infection to susceptible patients.

On 19 November 2009 the Department announced Phase 2 of the vaccination programme. The programme will be extended to children over six months and under five years, after the initial priority groups have been vaccinated. It will also be extended to main carers of older and disabled people, subject to discussions with carers' organisations.

## Transplant Surgery

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many transplants were performed in private clinical practice using solid organs from living donors removed *(a)* in NHS facilities and *(b)* in other facilities in each of the last 10 years. [304249]

**Ann Keen:** All organ retrieval and organ implantation in the United Kingdom is notified to NHS Blood and Transplant. All living donation in the UK is approved by the Human Tissue Authority to safeguard against coercion and trafficking.

The method of payment for transplant operations carried out using organs taken from living donors in national health service trust facilities is not recorded. Therefore, it is not possible to provide data on the number of transplants that were performed privately using organs retrieved from living donors in NHS facilities.

The following table shows organs retrieved from living donors in non-NHS facilities for transplants performed in private hospitals in the UK in each of the last 10 years. With one exception as detailed, all organs were retrieved in the same private hospital where they were transplanted.

| | *Kidney* | *Liver lobe* |
|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 4 | 2 |
| 2000-01 | 1 | 4 |
| 2001-02 | 4 | 0 |
| 2002-03 | 5 | 0 |
| 2003-04 | 2 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 6 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 3 | 2 |
| 2006-07[1] | 4 | 0 |

| | Kidney | Liver lobe |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 5 | 0 |
| 2008-09 | 6 | 2 |

[1] In 2006-07, one kidney was removed in a private hospital and transplanted in an NHS hospital. Transplants carried out on private basis within NHS and Foundation trusts are not recorded separately.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Adult Education: Further Education

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the independent review commissioned by the Learning and Skills Council and undertaken by the Institute for Employment Studies, of the provision of further education courses for people aged 19 years and over with learning difficulties or disabilities to be published. [302780]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: The IES report raised a number of very important questions and issues that my officials have been considering against current policies. They have been discussing this further with colleagues in the Learning and Skills Council and I expect this work to be concluded very shortly. The report will be published by the end of December.

### Apprentices

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships were awarded in each subject sector in the last 12 months. [304505]

**Kevin Brennan:** The following table shows apprenticeship achievements by Sector Subject Area for 2007/08, the latest year for which we have complete data. Final information for the 2008/09 academic year will be released on 17 December. In-year information for 2008/09 can be found in a Statistical First Release, at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09/

*Table 1: Apprenticeship achievements by sector subject area, 2007/08*

| Sector subject area | 2007/08 full year (final) |
|---|---|
| Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care | 2,500 |
| Arts, Media and Publishing | 200 |
| Business, Administration and Law | 23,000 |
| Construction, Planning and the Built Environment | 17,000 |
| Education and Training | |
| Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies | 20,800 |
| Health, Public Services and Care | 13,000 |
| Information and Communication Technology | 5,500 |
| Languages, Literature and Culture | .. |
| Leisure, Travel and Tourism | 3,000 |
| Preparation for Life and Work | .. |
| Retail and Commercial Enterprise | 24,400 |
| Science and Mathematics | |
| Unknown | 400 |
| Grand total | 112,600 |

Notes:

1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. '..' Indicates a base value of less than 50.
3. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of achievements at any point during the year. Learners achieving more than one framework will appear more than once.

Source:

Work Based Learning Individualised Learner Record

### Apprentices: Accountancy

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships in accounting were awarded by each awarding body in the last 12 months. [304504]

**Kevin Brennan:** There were 2,700 achievements in the accountancy apprenticeship framework in 2007/08, the latest year for which we have complete data. Final data for the 2008/09 academic year will be published on 17 December. In-year data for 2008/09 can be found in a Statistical First Release at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09/

Information on apprenticeship achievements by awarding body is not available.

### Apprentices: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley, who lost their apprenticeship place in the last 12 months, have found new apprenticeship places with other employers. [300236]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer to the answer I gave to him on 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1232W, when I explained that data about the number of apprentices made redundant are not currently available. We have put in place for this academic year, from 1 August, arrangements to record the number of apprentices who are made redundant. We expect these data to be available from early in 2010. Currently, the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) has not been approached by providers, employers or individuals in Bexleyheath and Crayford or in Bexley to support any redundant apprentices.

The London NAS has commissioned an ESF-funded Apprentice Redeployment Support Programme to cover the whole of London. It will support up to 1,000 apprentices, from all sectors, who have been made redundant or are under notice of redundancy, with a work-based training placement to enable them to complete their framework and enhance their opportunity to secure alternative employment. The programme, which started in September, is due to run until 2010, and is being delivered by South London Business and Examplas. Performance data are not yet available.

### Apprentices: Environment Protection

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship schemes in green jobs have been established since 1997. [304528]

**Kevin Brennan:** The skills required in green jobs are usually delivered through existing frameworks, for example through engineering or electro-technical apprenticeships. Information on the number of starts or achievements on apprenticeship frameworks is published in a Statistical First Release, and can be found at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09/

Work is currently under way to develop existing and new frameworks in green areas such as low-carbon and renewable energy industries, for example wind-turbine and solar photovoltaic panel installation jobs.

### Broadband

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average speed of broadband services available in *(a)* England and *(b)* Milton Keynes. [304345]

**Mr. Timms:** This Department has not made an estimate of the average speed of broadband services available in *(a)* England and *(b)* Milton Keynes. However, Ofcom's Broadband Speed report indicates that in April 2009 average broadband speeds in the UK were 4.1 Mbit/s.

### Building Colleges for the Future Programme

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with further education college principals about the Building Colleges for the Future programme. [303167]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have regular meetings with the Association of Colleges and individual college principles. Additionally, in line with Sir Andrew Foster's recommendations, an FE Reference Panel on Capital was established in collaboration with the Association of Colleges (AOC). Through this panel, the Government have consulted with the sector about the recent prioritisation exercise and on the future of the FE Capital programme. The reference panel last met on the 28 October and will continue to meet on a regular basis.

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his plans are on the future of the Building Colleges for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [303170]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Building Colleges for the Future Programme continues to move forward. In total across this current spending period, Government will spend £1.7 billion on college buildings with continued investment earmarked for the next spending period.

Since the completion of the prioritisation exercise, the Department has been working with both the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the Association of Colleges (AOC) through the College Reference Panel to consult with the sector to determine how to best invest future investment. The group last met on the 28 October and will do so again in January.

### Carbon Monoxide: Alarms

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what information his Department holds on the proportion of carbon monoxide alarms sold which are *(a)* provided with lifetime batteries and *(b)* mains wired; [301461]

(2) what information his Department holds on the proportion of carbon monoxide alarms sold which conform to BS EN 50291; and if he will make a statement. [301462]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department does not hold information relating to sales of carbon monoxide detectors. We would advise consumers to only buy carbon monoxide detectors that are marked as conforming to BS EN 50291 as this standard includes performance requirements for such detectors.

### Departmental Rail Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* the Secretary of State last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301202]

**Mr. McFadden:** My noble Friend the Secretary of State travelled by train on Friday 4 December for an official visit to Birmingham and I travelled to Coventry on Thursday 3 December to visit Modec, an electric van manufacturing company.

### Departmental Scientists

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [301930]

**Mr. McFadden:** Professor Brian Collins is the Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. He draws upon science and engineering expertise as necessary from within the department and externally.

There are 197 civil servants in BIS and its agencies who have signed up to the Government Science and Engineering network, which is for civil servants who identify themselves as scientists and/or engineers, or who work in posts which demand science or engineering skills.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what training his Department makes available to its officials immediately prior to an overseas posting; and if he will make a statement. [304558]

**Mr. McFadden:** Most staff from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) working overseas do so on loan to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

(FCO). The training they receive immediately prior to an overseas posting depends on the post they are to take up.

BIS staff undertaking trade and investment posts overseas normally have the opportunity to attend an induction programme covering UKTI's strategy, structure and business. The programme includes a mix of briefing meetings and broader meetings with key stakeholders, sector specialists and relevant UK companies. Where appropriate, further pre-posting training may be provided by FCO, e.g. language training; IT systems training and similar.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department undertook media skills training in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [304561]

**Mr. McFadden:** Media skills training, arranged by the Press Office, has been undertaken by the Department's permanent secretary and the Government chief scientific adviser in the last 12 months.

Details of any other media skills training for officials are not held centrally.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department funds any training courses which are undertaken overseas; and if he will make a statement. [304566]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) does not normally fund training courses undertaken overseas. BIS staff working overseas mainly do so on loan to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Skills training overseas is usually funded through FCO budgets.

## Departmental Working Hours

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many and what percentage of staff of his Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis; [301335]

(2) when he will respond to question 301335, tabled by the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire on 19 November 2009, on departmental working practices. [305838]

**Mr. McFadden:** Currently, there are 416 staff in Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) who have chosen to work part-time which represents 10.8 per cent. of staff.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created in June from the former Department for Innovation for Universities and Skills (DIUS) and former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). Workforce data are currently being amalgamated. We do not have full flexible working data for former DIUS staff, but for former BERR staff it is estimated that 1309 members of staff work flexibly, representing 42.8 per cent. of former BERR staff.

This information does not include executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies. Chief executives of our executive agencies will respond to you directly. The Department offers a wide range of flexible working options to support our staff such as part-time working, home working, condensed hours, flexi-time and annualised hours. The Remote computer access and remote telephony options are also available to staff, to help them to work flexibly.

Job-sharing is a way of widening the talent pool and recruiting the best staff. In BIS, we held a job-share and part-time workshop in July, to encourage more managers and staff to consider job share or part-time arrangements. The workshop was attended by over sixty managers and staff. We also highlighted the Cabinet Office job share website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/news/2009/june/job-share.aspx

We continue to promote job-sharing and job vacancies must explicitly address the scope for flexible working opportunities in posts and state that applications are welcomed from candidates with part-time, job-share or other flexible working arrangements.

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 9th December 2009:*

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how many and what percentage of staff of his Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis.

As at 19/11/2009, we have the following numbers of staff who are working flexible working patterns:

| *Working pattern* | *Number of employees* |
|---|---|
| Flexible working scheme | 575 |
| Compressed hours | 52 |
| Part-time working | 417 |
| Home working | 26 |
| Remote working | 2 |

We also offer our staff flexi-time, but we do not record centrally the numbers of staff that use this working pattern. We also do not hold records centrally of the number of staff that job share. Job sharers are included in the table as part-time workers.

*Recruitment Policy for Flexible Working*

The Insolvency Service strongly encourages opportunities for part-time, job share and other flexible working arrangements. When advertising posts, recruiting managers are not able to specify a specific working pattern e.g. full-time, part-time etc, unless a business case has been made through a relevant Director, and agreed by Human Resources. Applicants are not required to indicate their current or proposed working pattern. It is only at the point where an applicant is contacted to be offered the job that a recruiting manager will discuss with the applicant the proposed working pattern.

Recruiting managers are encouraged to accommodate all working patterns, but where there is any doubt on whether a working pattern can be accommodated, the applicant needs to discuss the proposals with their line-manager to establish what options are available to accommodate the pattern. Where the pattern cannot be accommodated, the recruiting manager provides the applicant with written objective justification for the decision.

*Letter from Peter Mason, dated 26 November 2009:*

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 19/11/2009 [reference 301335 ] to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how many and what percentage of staff of his Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time.

The National Measurement Office employs 65 members of staff, of whom 9 (13.9%) work part time and 5 (7.7%) have a home working contract. Statutory provisions have been extended to all staff in line with our equality policy and all staff have access to flexitime working and other flexible working patterns. When posts are advertised each one is considered for various flexible working arrangements according to the business needs of the Agency.

*Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 24 November 2009:*

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 19 November 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO), an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, currently has 353 part-time staff, representing 17% of its workforce. The IPO has 72 staff who work from home (representing 8% of the workforce) of which, 17 are part-time.

Other forms of flexible working are available to all IPO staff, including annualised hours, term-time working, job-sharing and compressed hours. Staff are able to manage their work-life balance effectively on a daily basis within a normal bandwidth of 7am to 7pm.

The IPO's flexible working policy is published to all staff via its intranet and sets out its commitment to providing the widest possible range of working patterns for staff. Applications to work flexibly are invited from staff and considered on an individual basis. All vacancies are advertised as open to job share and part-time working.

*Letter from Tim Moss, dated December 2009:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 19 November 2009, UIN 301335, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The majority of Companies House staff work their contracted hours through a flexi system which means they can work flexibly around core hours. 313 members of staff, equating to 26.7% of the workforce, work on a part-time basis.

All jobs are available on a job share or part-time basis.

### Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305370]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (and the previous Departments for Innovation, Universities and Skills and Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) received a total of 944 named day parliamentary question during the fourth Session of Parliament. A total of 231 questions received a substantive reply on the day requested. The Department aims to provide information to Members accurately and wherever possible on time and notes the Government Response to the House of Commons Procedure Committee's Third Report, published on 7 December 2009 [HC129].

Following the merger of the two Departments in June 2009, the Business, Innovation and Skills parliamentary unit was restructured and the figures for September to November (which form part of the figures indicated above) were 205 tabled named day parliamentary questions of which 122 received a substantive answer on the date specified.

### Electric Vehicles

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has allocated for the purpose of developing electric cars in the last 12 months. [illegible]

**Ian Lucas:** The Department is supporting the development of electric vehicles through a number of measures including the Technology Strategy Board led Low Carbon Vehicle Innovation Platform, worth approximately £150 million of public sector support; the work of the Research Councils and Energy Technologies Institute; and the Automotive Assistance Programme.

In the last year, the Technology Strategy Board's Innovation Platform has resulted in support for:

A £50 million Low Carbon Vehicle Demonstrator Programme (with public sector funding of £25 million, announced in 2008 and launched in June 2009), which will see more than 340 vehicles being trialled in several UK regions, managed through eight industry-led consortiums, within the next six to eighteen months—the biggest project of its kind in the world.

The development of an all-electric urban car with the provision of grant funding of £4.5 million for a £9 million project led by Gordon Murray Design, which will develop four prototypes of the vehicle by February 2011.

10 innovative research projects through a £10m investment in business led collaborative R and D projects that will lead to the development of cutting-edge ultra efficient electrical systems for electric and hybrid vehicles, and

A number of collaborative R and D projects, which were allocated funding in prior years, but where spend has continued this year as the projects are typically of three to four years duration.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has committed £1.5 million to projects commencing in 2009 relating to the development of electric vehicles. This brings their current portfolio of projects to £9.22 million in total. In addition, EPSRC supports a broader range of underpinning research into fuel cells, energy storage and networks and grids.

In July, the Energy Technologies Institute announced it would be committing £3 million to the first stage of a project to provide an evaluation of the consumer response to plug-in vehicles and the supporting infrastructure.

In September, the Department also announced an offer of a £10 million loan to Tata Motors European Technical Centre to support £25 million of investment to develop and manufacture electric vehicles in Coventry. Although the company has now secured alternative funding, it has voiced its appreciation for the offer under the Automotive Assistance Programme and the Government remain ready to support the company should it require it.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had on the development of electric cars. [illegible]

**Ian Lucas:** I have had a range of discussions with the automotive sector about electric vehicles including, for example, with JLR, GM, BMW, Nissan and Toyota.

## English Language

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many individuals *(a)* registered for and *(b)* successfully completed an English for speakers of other languages approved course in England in each of the last three years. [301733]

**Kevin Brennan:** Learner participation and achievements on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses are published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 22 October and shows information for 2005/06 to 2008/09 (provisional):

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09/

Table 1 shows participation and achievement on approved ESOL courses, and all ESOL courses in 2006/07 to 2008/09 (provisional).

*Table 1 Participation and achievement of ESOL courses, 2006/07 to 2008/09 (provisional)*

| | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 (provisional)[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Participation* | | | |
| All ESOL courses | 243,900 | 218,100 | 211,300 |
| Approved ESOL courses | 164,500 | 167,500 | 169,600 |
| *Achievement* | | | |
| All ESOL courses | 166,500 | 156,200 | 98,000 |
| Approved ESOL courses | 107,800 | 113,300 | 73,600 |

[1] Figures for 2008/09 are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data is collected and how funded learners are defined from 2008/09 onwards. More information on demand led funding is available at:
http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/funding-policy/demand-led-funding.htm.*Notes*

*Notes*

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. 'Approved' courses are those which can be funded by the Learning and Skills Council under section 96 or section 97 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000.
3. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of learners that participated/achieved at any point during the year. Learners undertaking/achieving more than one course will appear only once in the 'total learners' category for each data collection. However, learners that are included in different data collections, whether that relates to different years or different funding streams, will be counted more than once.
4. Learners undertaking or achieving both approved courses and courses which have not been approved are counted once only in the totals.

*Coverage:* England

*Source:* Individualised Learner Record

From 2006/07, the LSC ceased funding very short courses (less than nine hours). Learners were encouraged to enrol on longer, accredited Skills for Life courses. Accredited provision provides a higher quality of learner experience and leads to the gaining of a recognisable, transferable qualification upon completion. The impact of moving from shorter to longer courses is a reduction in overall learner numbers.

## Environment Protection: Finance

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding is available to low carbon innovative companies through the UK Innovation Investment Fund. [304474]

**Mr. McFadden:** The UK Innovation Investment Fund will operate on a fund of funds structure which means it will not invest directly in companies, but rather invest in a small number of specialist technology funds that have the expertise and track record to invest directly in companies. These underlying funds will focus on investing in growing small businesses, start-ups and spin-outs, in strategically important UK sectors including clean technology, life sciences, advanced manufacturing and ICT. Investments in individual technology funds will be a commercial decision for the fund of funds manager based on the quality of the investment opportunity and the fund's investment strategy. There is no restriction on the spread of spending across technology sectors, with the exception of £25 million minimum investment in each of low carbon and life sciences. We anticipate that the actual level of investment in low carbon will exceed £25 million.

## Estate Agents: Registration

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much the Office of Fair Trading has received from estate agents in registration fees under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 in each of the last six months; and how much the Office expects to receive in each of the next three years; [303049]

(2) whether the Office of Fair Trading undertook an impact assessment in respect of its proposals to require estate agents to register under the terms of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007; and if he will make a statement; [303050]

(3) what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Office of Fair Trading have undertaken on the effect on the estate agency sector of the implementation of the registration requirements under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007; [303113]

(4) what estimate the Office of Fair Trading has made of the annual administrative costs of operating the system of estate agent registration in compliance with the Money Laundering Regulations 2007. [303048]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) registration scheme for money laundering was launched on 31 July. No fees were sought or received prior to 31 July. Forecasts for fee levels in 2010/11 onwards are subject to future public consultation (to start in January 2010). The OFT will be seeking input on its future supervisory approach and fee structures to support supervisory activity. Future costs and fee levels have not yet been estimated. The OFT receives no central funding for its anti-money laundering supervisory role. The regime has to be self funding and the OFT can recover its reasonable costs through fees. The consultation will enable the firms supervised by the OFT to influence future costs.

Regarding the hon. Member's questions in relation to impact assessments and research on the effect of registration on the estate agency sector, I refer to my answer of 21 July, *Official Report*, column 1676W.

The OFT does not have a figure solely for the administrative costs of operating the system of estate agent registration. This is because there is no differentiation made in the OFT's budget for anti-money laundering between estate agents or Consumer Credit Financial

Institutions. The OFT estimates that the cost of setting up and operating the OFT's money laundering registration in 2009/10 is as follows:

Staff costs: £397,000

Non-staff costs: £407,000

Total: £804,000

This figure does not include (i) any costs for corporate support such as IT, finance or accommodation, which is totalled elsewhere in the budget, (ii) recovery of the set-up costs from 2008/09 associated with registration, or (iii) the estimated cost for 2009/10 associated with the operation of the registration system since registration launch on 31 July, which is £150,000. Forecasts for administration costs in 2010/11 onwards are subject to future public consultation and will be dependent on the proportion of firms who register with OFT during the initial six month registration period. These costs have not, as yet, been estimated.

### Further Education: Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the number of violent attacks on further education college staff in the last 12 months. [303171]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Government are not the employer of FE staff and as such keeps no central records to answer this sort of question.

FE colleges were established as self-governing, independent organisations following the enactment of the Further and Higher Education Act in 1992.

### Further Education: Finance

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the financial losses experienced by further education colleges in the last 12 months which have not received capital funding from the Building Colleges for the Future programme. [303166]

**Kevin Brennan:** We are not able to provide this information as colleges are not due to submit audited accounts for 2008-09 until the end of the calendar year, which will then be reviewed by the Learning and Skills Council.

The LSC has an existing process in place for dealing with colleges that experience financial difficulties and is committed to ensuring that no college gets into financial difficulty as a result of the Building Colleges for the Future Programme.

### Higher Education: Qualifications

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of foundation degrees are offered by further education colleges. [303719]

**Kevin Brennan:** 58 per cent. (19,390 students) of UK-domicile foundation degree entrants to higher education institutions and further education colleges in England were taught wholly at further education colleges in 2006/07.

These are the latest figures available from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

### Investors in People

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse has been of the Investors in People scheme to date; and if he will make a statement. [304571]

**Mr. McFadden:** Between 1995 and present, the total amount of funding given by Government to Investors in People UK for the development and delivery of the Investors in People standard is £65,585,404. Information on funding prior to 1995 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of the Investors in People scheme; and if he will make a statement. [304572]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department has made no direct assessment of the impact of the Investors in People Framework on the economy. However, IiP UK has itself regularly commissioned research into the benefits of IiP.

Details of recent research is available on the IiP UK website and a copy will be placed in the Libraries.

### Investors in People: Government Departments

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Government *(a)* departments, *(b)* agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies have been certified by Investors in People to date. [304570]

**Mr. McFadden:** The number of public sector organisations which are or have been recognised as an Investor in People organisation is approximately 21,000. Of this approximately 11,000 are currently recognised.

The way in which data are collected and stored by IiP UK does not allow for a breakdown of this figure into the categories requested. The figure above covers all public sector organisations including (but not limited to) Government Departments, NDPBs, agencies, schools, colleges, universities, hospitals and museums.

### Learning and Skills Council for England

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on the transfer of the functions of the Learning and Skills Council to *(a)* the Skills Funding Agency, *(b)* the National Apprenticeship Service, *(c)* the Young People's Learning Agency and *(d)* local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [300237]

**Kevin Brennan:** We are making good progress in transferring the functions of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to the Skills Funding Agency, the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) and local authorities. Officials in this Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families are working with our new partners to ensure a seamless handover in April and, as part of this, a period of shadow running has already begun. We are on track for local authorities to assume their new responsibilities, and for the new organisations to be fully operational, from April 2010. The National Apprenticeship Service, which has end-to-end responsibility for apprenticeships, has already been established (in April 2009) and will be housed within the Skills Funding Agency from April 2010.

### Lord Sugar

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings Lord Sugar has had with *(a)* Baroness Vadera and *(b)* Lord Davies of Abersoch since being appointed Enterprise Champion. [305091]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]:* Between 5 June, when the PM announced the appointment of Lord Sugar as Enterprise Champion, and 3 December, he has met Baroness Vadera four times and Lord Davies four times.

In addition he has seen them on other occasions, including in the House of Lords.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many times Lord Sugar has visited his Department's premises since being appointed Enterprise Champion; [305093]

(2) how many meetings Lord Sugar has had with officials in his Department since being appointed Enterprise Champion. [305092]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answers 8 December 2009]:* Lord Sugar is an adviser to Government and small business and does not have a Department.

He has met BIS officials on over 40 occasions between the announcement of his appointment and 3 December. He has visited the Department over 20 times in the same period.

However the main focus of his work as Enterprise Champion has been meeting small businesses and seeing business support delivery around the country.

### Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many registered companies there were in the automotive industry in each year since 2005. [305303]

**Ian Lucas:** There are currently 73,286 limited companies in the automotive industry registered with Companies House. The figures are based on the standard industrial classification code shown on the annual return, which means that no figures are included for companies incorporated in 2009 as they have not yet filed their first annual return. The annual figures are not available as the register is constantly updated with no historical databases retained. Detailed information comparing dates of incorporation and dissolution could be secured only at disproportionate cost.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many registered companies in the automotive industry have received Government assistance in each year since 2005. [305304]

**Ian Lucas:** Data about the wide range of Government support that is available and has been taken up by the automotive sector could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the number of registered automotive companies in England that have received Grant For Business Investment (GBI) or Selective Finance For Investment In England (SFIE) assistance in each year since 2005 is as follows:

| | *Number* | *Value of offers Accepted (£000)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 12 | 11,864 |
| 2006 | 9 | 9,570 |
| 2007 | 10 | 4,555 |
| 2008 | 6 | 3,063 |
| 2009[1] | 6 | 7,399 |

[1] To end Sept 2009

The introduction of the car scrappage scheme at a cost of £400 million has benefited companies in both manufacturing and retail.

### National Star College: Finance

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects a decision to be taken on funding for the development of the National Star College; and if he will take steps to ensure that funding is provided for the development of the college planned before the capital expenditure programme of the Learning and Skills Council was put on hold. [302787]

**Kevin Brennan:** Under the Learning and Skills Act 2000, Ministers may not direct the Learning and Skills Council in its decision making regards individual capital approvals.

However, I met with the Principal of National Star on 9 July and agreed to ask the LSC to explore potential options for the college to move forward. This work continues and I can confirm that for the future capital programme, the LSC is working with the Association of Colleges College Reference Panel to consider how to prioritise future investment.

### Royal Mail: Industrial Disputes

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the industrial action by Royal Mail employees called by the Communication Workers Union on small businesses in *(a)* Vale of York constituency, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England; and if he will make a statement. [305224]

**Mr. McFadden:** It is clear that industrial action by Royal Mail staff will impact on those customers that heavily rely on Royal Mail services and we are aware that many small businesses throughout the country use postal services on a daily basis.

The Government want to see a successful outcome to the discussions between Royal Mail and the Communication Workers Union under the agreement of 6 November and we welcome the appointment of Roger Poole, former Assistant General Secretary of Unison and Chairman of the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland, to independently oversee the process. It is important that both parties keep talking until an agreement is made on the way forward on the next phase of modernisation, which everyone accepts is vital for the future of the company.

## Training: Government Contracts

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage holders of Government contracts to develop skills among their workforce. [304556]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Government are committed to using the unique leverage of their £220 billion procurement programme to promote skills training and apprenticeship opportunities. In September 2009, I announced a new ambition to support 20,000 new apprenticeships over the next three years through Government procurement. Departments and Agencies will play a central role in delivering this ambition by building skills and apprenticeships considerations into both new and existing contracts.

The Department is supporting skills training and apprenticeship places through its procurement spend. In the Learning and Skills Council's Building Colleges for the Future programme, recent estimates suggest that on average one in every 20 workers employed on college construction projects is an apprentice.

In April the then Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Office of Government Commerce published practical guidance on how skills training and apprenticeships can be promoted through procurement processes. The guidance has been widely adopted.

## Unemployment

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of those not in employment, education or training who were unskilled in each of the last 18 months. [302570]

**Kevin Brennan:** The following table gives the proportion of people aged[1] 18 to 24 in England not in employment, education or training (NEET) who did not hold a level 2 qualification in each quarter during the last 18 months. Monthly estimates are not available as the Labour Force Survey, from which this information is produced, is run on a quarterly basis.

*Proportion of 18 to 24-year-olds in England whose highest qualification is below level 2 or have no qualifications*

| | *Percentage of 18 to 24 year olds NEET not qualified to level 2* | *Percentage of all 18 to 24 year olds not qualified to level 2* |
|---|---|---|
| Q2 2008 | 55.1 | 26.0 |
| Q3 2008 | 52.2 | 26.3 |
| Q4 2008 | 55.6 | 26.1 |
| Q1 2009 | 55.0 | 25.7 |
| Q2 2009 | 50.0 | 24.8 |
| Q3 2009 | 46.3 | 24.4 |

[1] Age used is the respondents' academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August

*Source:*

Labour Force Survey

*Base:*

18 to 24-year-olds (academic age), England

## Unemployment: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of people in Milton Keynes aged *(a)* 16 to 18 and *(b)* 19 to 24 years were not in education, training or employment in each quarter of the last 10 years. [304346]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of participation in education, training and employment for those aged 16 to 18 are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June and can be found on the Department's website at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000792/index.shtml

These estimates cannot be broken down to local authority level. However, Connexions services collect information on the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET in each local authority area. Figures for Milton Keynes are shown below. Figures for Milton Keynes are not available prior to 2006.

*16 to 18-year-olds NEET in Milton Keynes (Connexions estimates)*

| | *Proportion (percentage)* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 6.5 |
| 2007 | 5.8 |
| 2008 | 5.9 |

Equivalent information is not available for 18 to 24-year-olds.

We are making all 16 and 17-year-olds an offer of suitable place in learning through the September Guarantee. The Department has asked local authorities to focus in particular on those who are disengaged from education or missing school. The 14 to 19 curriculum reforms are creating a range of different learning opportunities suit all young people, including those who need help to re-engage in learning. Connexions services provide tailored support and advice, both on accessing education, employment or training, and on personal issues.

My right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister announced on 18 November plans to guarantee an offer of an Entry to Employment place to any 16 and 17-year-old who is not in education, employment or training (NEET) in January 2010. This will give those who were not ready to engage in learning in September, or who have since left, a further opportunity to get the skills they need to succeed.

## Unemployment: Young People

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged between *(a)* 16 to 18 and *(b)* 19 to 24 years old in each ethnic group were not in education, training or employment in each quarter of the last 10 years. [303831]

**Kevin Brennan:** The table gives the number and percentage not in education, employment or training (NEET) broken down by ethnic group for people aged[1] 16 to 18 and 19 to 24 in England. Due to the small sample sizes involved in analysis at this level of detail, quarterly data will not give robust estimates and the Annual Population Survey has been used instead.

Details of a respondent's ethnicity was not recorded prior to 2001, therefore the estimates are given for each year from 2001 to 2008.

Please note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals[2] (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of +/- 4.2 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 4.2pp above the estimate and 4.2pp below the estimate.

*People not in education, employment or training in England*

| | | *Aged[1] 16 to 18* | | | *Aged[1] 19 to 24* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Ethnic group* | *Number NEET* | *Percentage NEET* | *Confidence Interval (percentage)* | *Number NEET* | *Percentage NEET* | *Confidence Interval (percentage)* |
| 2001 | White | 151,000 | 10 | +/- 0.6 | 426,000 | 14 | +/- 0.6 |
| | Asian or Asian British | 12,000 | 10 | +/- 2.2 | 58,000 | 24 | +/- 2.5 |
| | Black or Black British | 5,000 | 10 | +/- 3.6 | 16,000 | 19 | +/- 4.0 |
| | Other ethnic group[2] | 7,000 | 13 | +/- 3.8 | 23,000 | 20 | +/- 3.4 |
| | Total | 175,000 | 10 | +/- 0.6 | 523,000 | 15 | +/- 0.5 |
| 2002 | White | 173,000 | 11 | +/- 0.6 | 433,000 | 14 | +/- 0.6 |
| | Asian or Asian British | 9,000 | 7 | +/-1.9 | 57,000 | 23 | +/- 2.3 |
| | Black or Black British | [illegible],000 | 9 | +/- 3.4 | 22,000 | 23 | +/-4.1 |
| | Other ethnic group[2] | 8,000 | 15 | +/-3.9 | 22,000 | 16 | +/- 2.9 |
| | Total | 195,000 | 11 | +/- 0.6 | 534,000 | 15 | +/- 0.5 |
| 2003 | White | 176,000 | 11 | +/- 0.6 | 437,000 | 14 | +/- 0.6 |
| | Asian or Asian British | 10,000 | 8 | +/-2.1 | 65,000 | 24 | +/- 2.4 |
| | Black or Black British | 7,000 | 13 | +/-4.1 | 21,000 | 22 | +/-4.1 |
| | Other ethnic group[2] | 8,000 | 13 | +/- 3.7 | 30,000 | 20 | +/-3.1 |
| | Total | 201,000 | 11 | +/- 0.6 | 553,000 | 16 | +/- 0.5 |
| 2004 | White | 182,000 | 11 | +/- 0.5 | 428,000 | 14 | +/- 0.5 |
| | Asian or Asian British | 12,000 | 10 | +/- 2.3 | 61,000 | 24 | +/- 2.3 |
| | Black or Black British | 5,000 | 10 | +/-3.7 | 26,000 | 24 | +/- 4.0 |
| | Other ethnic group[2] | 6,000 | 8 | +/- 2.6 | 27,000 | 17 | +/- 2.6 |
| | Total | 205,000 | 11 | +/- 0.5 | 541,000 | 15 | +/- 0.5 |
| 2005 | White | 198,000 | 12 | +/- 0.6 | 475,000 | 15 | +/- 0.5 |
| | Asian or Asian British | 13,000 | 11 | +/- 2.3 | 57,000 | 21 | +/- 2.3 |
| | Black or Black British | 6,000 | 11 | +/-3.7 | 27,000 | 24 | +/- 4.2 |
| | Other ethnic group[2] | 7,000 | 9 | +/- 2.8 | 36,000 | 20 | +/- 2.9 |
| | Total | 224,000 | 12 | +/- 0.5 | 594,000 | 16 | +/- 0.5 |
| 2006 | White | 195,000 | 12 | +/- 0.7 | 507,000 | 16 | +/- 0.6 |
| | Asian or Asian British | 11,000 | 9 | +/- 2.4 | 67,000 | 22 | +/- 2.4 |
| | Black or Black British | 4,000 | 7 | +/-3.1 | 23,000 | 21 | +/- 4.2 |
| | Other ethnic group[2] | 7,000 | 10 | +/- 3.2 | 33,000 | 19 | +/-3.1 |
| | Total | 218,000 | 11 | +/- 0.6 | 630,000 | 16 | +/- 0.6 |

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[1] Age used is the respondent's academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

[2] Those given are 95 per cent. confidence intervals.

*People not in education, employment or training in England*

| | | *Aged[1] 16 to 18* | | | *Aged[1] 19 to 24* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Ethnic group* | *Number NEET* | *Percentage NEET* | *Confidence Interval (percentage)* | *Number NEET* | *Percentage NEET* | *Confidence Interval (percentage)* |
| 2007 | White | 186,000 | 11 | +/- 0.7 | 514,000 | 15 | +/- 0.6 |
| | Asian or Asian British | 12,000 | 10 | +/- 2.4 | 66,000 | 23 | +/- 2.5 |
| | Black or Black British | 3,000 | 6 | +/- 2.9 | 23,000 | 20 | +/- 4.0 |
| | Other ethnic group[2] | 9,000 | 11 | +/- 3.3 | 36,000 | 19 | +/- 3.0 |
| | Total | 211,000 | 11 | +/- 0.6 | 638,000 | 16 | +/- 0.6 |
| 2008 | White | 187,000 | 11 | +/- 0.7 | 510,000 | 15 | +/- 0.6 |
| | Asian or Asian British | 13,000 | 10 | +/- 2.4 | 53,000 | 18 | +/- 2.2 |
| | Black or Black British | 8,000 | 11 | +/- 3.7 | 29,000 | 24 | +/- 4.2 |
| | Other ethnic group[2] | 10,000 | 10 | +/-3.1 | 45,000 | 21 | +/- 2.9 |
| | Total | 218,000 | 11 | +/- 0.6 | 637,000 | 16 | +/- 0.6 |

[1] Age used is the respondent's academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.
[2] Other ethnic group includes respondents of mixed ethnicity.

*Note*

The ALALFS covers the period from March in the given year to the following February.

*Base*

16 to 24-year-olds, England

*Source*

Annual Population Survey 2004-08, Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey (ALALFS) 2001-03

## Union Learning Fund: Finance

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what Union Learning Fund courses his Department and its predecessor has funded in the last five years. [304545]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Union Learning Fund (ULF) is not used to directly fund the provision of education or training courses. Over the last five years my Department has provided £86 million to help trade unions boost their capacity as learning organisations and use their influence with employers, employees and learning providers to encourage greater take up of learning in the workplace.

There are now over 23,000 trained Union Learning Representatives who, supported by ULF, have helped more than 800,000 workers back into learning since the Fund was introduced in 1998. Over 220,000 were helped last year, many from those hard to reach groups, who employers and training providers find it so difficult to engage with, including over 33,000 workers with poor basic literacy and numeracy skills.

## Vocational Training

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to assist people who have lost their jobs during the economic downturn to gain skills and qualifications necessary for them to obtain employment. [301634]

**Kevin Brennan:** New offers worth over £300 million over two years will help up to 235,000 people get the training they need to obtain sustainable employment. These programmes are in addition to existing support for the unemployed available through mainstream funding.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 10 December 2009*

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### Church of England: Green Issues

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what payments the Church Commissioners have made to Green Issues in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305164]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** In promoting strategic development opportunities, the commissioners use a wide range of professional advisers, including public consultation consultants, and I can confirm that Green Issues is one of the firms used.

The firm's primary role is to organise the public consultation associated with the promotion of major development proposals, including exhibitions and workshops, as well as liaising with various third parties such as local councillors. However, the terms of engagement are commercially sensitive and therefore cannot be deposited in the Library.

Public consultation is, of course, part of the statutory planning process but we also view it as a welcome opportunity to engage with local communities.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Costs

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has charged *(a)* other Government departments, *(b)* private sector companies and *(c)* foreign governments in employment costs for members of (i) his Department's civilian staff, (ii) the MOD Police Service, (iii) MOD Police and Guarding Agency and (iv) military personnel of the (A) Royal Navy, (B) Royal Marines, (C) Army and (D) Royal Air Force in each of the last five years. [304644]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Charges for personnel services are levied against outside bodies in accordance with the principles set out by HM Treasury in chapter 6 of Managing Public Money which requires that full costs should normally be recovered for any goods and services provided by MOD.

### Armed Forces: Manpower

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* officers and *(b)* personnel in other ranks in each regular infantry and Royal Marine battalion were unfit for duty at the latest date for which figures are available; [305723]

(2) what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual trained strength is of each (i) regular infantry and (ii) Royal Marine battalion. [305724]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Unfit for duty has been interpreted as medically unfit to perform any duty. Personnel unfit for duty in their primary role but who can perform a role in an alternative capacity are not included in the following tables.

The figures given include personnel filling all roles within each battalion, not just infantrymen. Separate figures for infantry officers and soldiers are not held centrally.

As at 1 October, the figures requested for the infantry are provided as follows.

| *Division* | *Unit* | *Required strength* | *Actual strength* | *Number unfit for duty* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Guards | 1 Grenadier Guards | 632 | 586 | 4 |
| | 1 Coldstream Guards | 626 | 606 | 6 |
| | 1 Scots Guards | 753 | 665 | 1 |
| | 1 Irish Guards | 633 | 629 | 6 |
| | 1 Welsh Guards | 626 | 608 | 12 |
| SCOTS | 1 SCOTS | 630 | 556 | 2 |
| | 2 SCOTS | 627 | 518 | 3 |
| | 3 SCOTS | 630 | 625 | 11 |
| | 4 SCOTS | 686 | 584 | 1 |
| | 5 SCOTS | 657 | 542 | 2 |
| Queens | 1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment | 755 | 722 | 2 |
| | 2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment | 671 | 600 | 2 |
| | 1 Royal Regt Fusiliers | 660 | 573 | 6 |
| | 2 Royal Regt Fusiliers | 626 | 548 | 13 |
| | 1 Royal Anglian | 713 | 734 | 9 |

| *Division* | *Unit* | *Required strength* | *Actual strength* | *Number unfit for duty* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 Royal Anglian | 629 | 628 | 2 |
| Kings | 1 LANCS | 757 | 721 | 8 |
| | 2 LANCS | 612 | 622 | 5 |
| | 1 YORKS incl. Gurkha Reinforcement Company 3 | 686 | 605 | 2 |
| | 2 YORKS | 623 | 493 | 2 |
| | 3 YORKS | 751 | 608 | 15 |
| Prince of Wales | 1 Mercian incl. Gurkha Reinforcement Company 2 | 731 | 648 | 2 |
| | 2 Mercian | 623 | 614 | 10 |
| | 3 Mercian | 678 | 606 | 4 |
| | 1 Royal Welsh | 623 | 611 | 4 |
| | 2 Royal Welsh | 751 | 687 | 6 |
| RIFLES | 1 RIFLES | 623 | 712 | 5 |
| | 2 RIFLES | 623 | 730 | 15 |
| | 3 RIFLES | 623 | 662 | 12 |
| | 4 RIFLES | 711 | 752 | 8 |
| | 5 RIFLES | 752 | 770 | 3 |
| Royal Irish | 1 Royal Irish | 650 | 586 | 9 |
| PARA | 2 PARA | 650 | 624 | 14 |
| | 3 PARA | 650 | 625 | 7 |
| Royal Gurkha Rifles | 1 Royal Gurkha Rifles | 643 | 619 | 8 |
| | 2 Royal Gurkha Rifles | 758 | 658 | 4 |

In addition to the battalions shown above there are three incremental guards companies which are primarily for public duties but which can also be used to augment the other guards battalions as required:

| *Unit* | *Required strength* | *Actual strength* | *Number unfit for duty* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nijmegen Coy Grenadier Gds | 108 | 107 | 1 |
| 7 Coy Coldstream Gds | 108 | 97 | 1 |
| F Coy Scots Guards | 110 | 106 | 4 |

The figures in both tables include personnel filling all roles within each battalion, not just infantrymen.

Figures for Royal Marine Commandos units are shown in the table below. Due to changes in the way in which the Royal Navy records its sick personnel, it is not possible to identify the number of Royal Marine personnel who are currently unfit to perform any duty.

| *Unit* | | *Required strength* | *Actual strength* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 40 Commando | Officers | [1]703 | 33 |
| | Other ranks | | 626 |
| 42 Commando | Officers | [1]703 | 37 |
| | Other ranks | | 617 |
| 45 Commando | Officers | [1]703 | 33 |
| | Other Ranks | | 637 |

[1] Represents a brace

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Motability

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many vehicles were *(a)* purchased by and *(b)* leased by people resident in (i) Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, (ii) the Highlands, (iii) Scotland and (iv) England and Wales under the Motability Scheme in each of the last five years. [304669]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Motability is an independent charitable company and is responsible for the administration of the Motability Scheme. They have written separately to the hon. Member with such information as they have available.

### New Deal for Young People

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 583W, on work experiences: young people, how many places were available on each option in the New Deal for Young People in each of the last 24 months. [302239]

**Jim Knight:** The availability of places on the new deal for young persons is demand-led; therefore the new deal providers ensure there are sufficient placements to meet the needs of Jobcentre Plus customers requiring the support given by any particular option.

### New Deal Schemes

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bids her Department has received for Flexible New Deal Phase 2 contracts; and how many full-time equivalent staff in her Department are responsible for analysing and evaluating bids submitted for Phase 2 Flexible New Deal contracts. [304539]

**Jim Knight:** To date, the Department has not received any bids. The deadline for flexible new deal phase 2 bids to be submitted to DWP is 6 January 2010.

The number of full-time equivalent staff likely to be involved in the evaluation will be influenced by the number of tenders that are actually returned and will include staff from across several expert domains.

### Remploy: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what payments Remploy has made to *(a)* Portland PR and *(b)* Greenhause Public Communication in each of the last three years; for what purposes; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [302301]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Remploy has made total payments to Portland PR of £174,680 between 2007 and 2009.

In 2007-08 the amount was £160,665 for public affairs strategy and communications work. £35,000 of this spend was specifically for factory closure communications.

In 2008-09 the amount spent was £14,015 for the public affairs strategy and communications programme.

In 2007 Remploy made a payment to Greenhause Public Communication to a total of £12,277.50. This was paid for public affairs work.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305490]

**Ann McKechin:** Statistics published by the Ministry of Justice on Freedom of Information in central Government for 2008 show that of a total of 111 non-routine requests received by the Department (based on aggregated quarterly data) 71 per cent. (79) received a substantive response within 20 days. 78 per cent. (87) of requests were dealt with 'in time', that is within 20 days by meeting the deadline or other permitted extension deadline.

The statistics can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

and copies are available in the Library.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertainment in the last 12 months. [305532]

**Ann McKechin:** The information is not held in the form requested; however, in 2008-09 the Scotland Office spent £15,158 on hospitality.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305524]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office has incurred no expenditure on ministerial photoshoots or production of videos in the last three years.

### Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305383]

**Ann McKechin:** Details of the number of questions tabled for answer on a named day and those that received a substantive answer on the day named are shown in the following table:

| | *Number of named day questions tabled* | *Percentage of named day questions that received a substantive answer on the day named* |
|---|---|---|
| December 2008 | 2 | 100 |
| January 2009 | 1 | 100 |
| February 2009 | 0 | n/a |
| March 2009 | 11 | 90 |
| April 2009 | 5 | 100 |
| May 2009 | 1 | 0 |
| June 2009 | 0 | n/a |
| July 2009 | 6 | 100 |
| August 2009 | 0 | n/a |
| September 2009 | 0 | n/a |
| October 2009 | 0 | n/a |
| November 2009 | 2 | 100 |

Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the "Guide to Parliamentary Work", at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee Report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305655]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office does not separately record expenditure on hotel accommodation from other forms of subsistence such as meal allowances, day subsistence, incidental expenses and motor mileage.

All travel and subsistence is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Department of Resources: Finance

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much money was owed to the House of Commons Department of Resources by *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* Officers of the House and *(c)* the Press Gallery Committee for expenditures incurred on catering and retail goods and services on 1 September 2009. [302830]

**Nick Harvey:** It is not possible to provide the figures requested as at 1 September, except at disproportionate cost. This is because the database changes every day and the figures are only readily available if the data for a particular day have been retained. Reconstructing the data for a past day for which the data have not been retained would be an extremely time-consuming exercise involving a lot of manual adjustments to the data.

### Speaker's Adviser

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether Mr. Speaker's special adviser has claimed any expenses for travel since his appointment. [305840]

**Nick Harvey:** No expenses of any kind have been claimed.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Creativity and Business International Network: Finance

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of his budget for c&binet for 2009-10 was spent on the event held at The Grove between 26 and 28 October 2009. [305622]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The gross costs of planning and staging the event at The Grove accounted for approximately 40 per cent. of the budget allocated to c&binet during 2009-10. The investment to develop a network of key professionals in the creative industries also contributed to the success of the event. DCMS is currently in discussions with private sector companies to take forward the project. This has allowed us to reduce the overall budget from £3 million to £2 million over the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many days of sick leave were taken by staff in his Department and its agency in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of such sick leave. [305556]

**Mr. Simon:** The information is as follows:

*Number of working days lost due to sickness during the period from 1 December 2008 to 30 November 2009*

| | *DCMS* | *The Royal Parks* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | | |
| December | 134 | 52 | 186 |
| *2009* | | | |
| January | 152 | 37 | 189 |
| February | 88 | 33 | 121 |
| March | 115 | 32 | 147 |
| April | 154 | 9 | 163 |
| May | 148 | 20 | 168 |
| June | 149 | 15 | 164 |
| July | 175 | 54 | 229 |
| August | 215 | 52 | 267 |
| September | 211 | 64 | 275 |
| October | 149 | 95 | 244 |

*Number of working days lost due to sickness during the period from 1 December 2008 to 30 November 2009*

| | *DCMS* | *The Royal Parks* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| November | 76 | 60 | 136 |
| Total | 1,766 | 523 | 2,289 |

*Cost of sickness for the period from 1 December 2008 to 30 November 2009*

| | *DCMS* | *The Royal Parks* | £<br>*Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | | |
| December | 23,852 | 9,256 | 33,108 |
| *2009* | | | |
| January | 27,056 | 6,586 | 33,642 |
| February | 15,664 | 5,874 | 21,538 |
| March | 20,470 | 5,696 | 26,166 |
| April | 28,182 | 1,647 | 29,829 |
| May | 27,084 | 3,660 | 30,744 |
| June | 27,267 | 2,745 | 30,012 |
| July | 32,025 | 9,882 | 41,907 |
| August | 39,345 | 9,515 | 48,860 |
| September | 38,613 | 11,712 | 50,325 |
| October | 27,267 | 17,385 | 44,652 |
| November | 13,908 | 10,980 | 24,888 |
| Total | 320,733 | 94,938 | 415,671 |

### Film: Israel

**Mr. Byers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to sign the co-production treaty concerning the film industry with the Government of Israel. [305358]

**Mr. Simon:** We hope to conclude negotiations with Israel on a film co-production agreement and to be able to announce arrangements for the signing of this agreement soon.

### Grayling Political Strategy: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments Arts Council East has made to Grayling Political Strategy in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305135]

**Margaret Hodge:** Arts Council England has advised the following position on the subject of expenditure relating to Regional Cities East (RCE).

Regional Cities East is a partnership between Colchester borough council, Ipswich borough council, Luton borough council, Norwich city council, Peterborough city council, Southend-on-Sea borough council, Arts Council England East and the East of England Development Agency.

In 2008-09, RCE had an overall budget of £120,000 from the partners, including a £60,000 contribution from Arts Council East, to promote the world class arts and cultural assets of these key cities.

In November 2008 Colchester borough council, as budget holder for Regional Cities East, contracted Grayling to deliver the first stage of this programme. Their fee was £90,876.00 + VAT for an initial 12 months from 1 November 2008 to 31 October 2009 and this resulted in press coverage equivalent to an editorial value of £334,000.

ACE East has had no contract with Grayling.

### Olympic Legacy Board

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the membership is of the new Olympic Legacy board announced in his Department's press release of 2 October 2009; how many times the board has met; and on how many occasions *(a)* Sir Steve Redgrave and *(b)* each of the other six Olympic and Paralympic medallists has attended the board's meetings. [305790]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Sport Legacy Delivery Board is made up of senior representatives from:

London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games
UK Sport
Youth Sport Trust
Sportscoach UK
Sport England
Sportscotland
Sports Council for Wales
Sport Northern Ireland
Local Government Association
Nations and Regions Board
Paralympics GB
British Olympic Association
British Paralympic Association
National Governing Bodies of Sport
Central Council of Physical Recreation
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Government Olympic Executive.

Sir Steve Redgrave is also a member, and the Department of Health and Department for Children, Schools and Families are auxiliary members.

The board has met twice since October 2009 and is due to meet again in January, February and March 2010. Sir Steve has attended one meeting; the School Sports Ambassadors have not attended either meeting.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Christmas

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [306150]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, does not hold the information required to answer this question because budget information is not broken down to this level of detail.

## Employment: Religion

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* Catholics and *(b)* Protestants were employed in the (i) private and (ii) public sectors in Northern Ireland in each of the past 30 years; how many Catholics and Protestants were employed in the (A) Fire Service, (B) Police Service and (C) Civil Service in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of the working age population of each community each of these figures represented. [302336]

**Paul Goggins:** Employment figures for the total number of Catholics and Protestants employed by the private and public sectors in Northern Ireland and for the proportions of each community that these figures represent are a matter for the Northern Ireland Administration; figures relating to the Fire Service and Northern Ireland Civil Service are also a matter for the Northern Ireland Administration.

The Chief Constable has provided the following table which gives the number of Catholics and Protestants employed as police officers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years.

| | Regular police officers | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Protestant* | *Catholic* | *Not determined* | *As a percentage of total economically active Protestants*[1] | *As a percentage of total economically active Catholics*[1] |
| 2000 | 7,517 | 713 | 296 | 1.87 | 0.24 |
| 2001 | 7,365 | 706 | 281 | 1.83 | 0.24 |
| 2002 | 6,334 | 642 | 251 | 1.58 | 0.21 |
| 2003 | 6,117 | 840 | 236 | 1.52 | 0.28 |
| 2004 | 6,088 | 1,018 | 226 | 1.52 | 0.34 |
| 2005 | 6,025 | 1,265 | 206 | 1.50 | 0.42 |
| 2006 | 5,868 | 1,427 | 197 | 1.46 | 0.48 |
| 2007 | 5,759 | 1,588 | 195 | 1.43 | 0.53 |
| 2008 | 5,480 | 1,743 | 185 | 1.36 | 0.58 |
| 2009 | 5,305 | 1,904 | 184 | 1.32 | 0.64 |

[1] This information has been derived from the Summary Report of Northern Ireland 2001 Population Census. Economically active persons are those aged 16 to 64.

Total number of economically active Protestants—401,473;

Total number of economically active Catholics—299,218.

## Irish Language

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to Annex B of the St. Andrews Agreement of October 2006, what steps the Government plans to take to fulfil the commitment to introduce legislation on the Irish language, reflecting on the experience of Wales and the Republic of Ireland. [304265]

**Paul Goggins:** Annex B of the St. Andrews Agreement committed the Government to introducing an Irish Language Act, reflecting on the experience of Wales and Ireland, and to work with the Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language.

The Government took forward this commitment through the publication of two consultation papers in December 2006 and March 2007 setting out their proposed approach to an Irish Language Act. The latter included draft clauses.

Following the restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly on 8 May 2007, the responsibility in this area passed to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive.

The Northern Ireland Executive was placed under a statutory duty, by the Northern Ireland (St. Andrews Agreement) Act 2006, to adopt a strategy to enhance and protect the development of Irish language. The Executive has a similar statutory duty to enhance and develop the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture.

The Government recognise the close connection between language and identity issues, and understand the concern of individuals to see that the language in which they were brought up, or which is used in their communities, is respected. They therefore believe that these statutory duties are of particular importance and encourage the Executive to complete and publish their strategies.

The Government reaffirmed, at the British-Irish Council on 13 November 2009, their commitment to work with the Executive to support the development and implementation of strategies for Irish language and Ulster Scots and are continuing to work with other Administrations through the British-Irish Council to share best practice on the enhancement and protection of minority languages.

In addition, the Government are seeking views in their consultation paper "A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland: Next Steps" on what additional legislative protections in relation to the Irish language might be included in a Northern Ireland Bill of Rights.

Work is also being taken forward in relation to Irish language broadcasting. The British and Irish Governments hope shortly to sign a memorandum of understanding which will contain commitments to the continuing widespread availability of TG4 in Northern Ireland following the digital switchover, and to exploring the increased availability of RTE in Northern Ireland.

## Northern Ireland Courts Service: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what payments the Northern Ireland Courts Service has made to Stratagem in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305161]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

The Northern Ireland Court Service has not had a contract with Stratagem since March 2009. Between December 2008 and March 2009 the Court Service made payments totalling £1,479.50 to Stratagem for the provision of political monitoring.

### Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what payments the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission has made to Weber Shandwick in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305160]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

During the last 12 months the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission has made payments to Weber Shandwick—Belfast totalling £52 582.84 for communication services for the period May 2008 to August 2009.

A statement of the remit, scope and terms of reference for the contract has been placed in the Library.

### Offenders: Deportation

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 4 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1039W, on devolution (1) whether primary legislation would be required to provide for a reserve power to block the repatriation of foreign national prisoners from Northern Ireland following the devolution of criminal justice and policing; and if he will make a statement; [304525]

(2) what circumstances would constitute grounds of national security for the purpose of exercising a reserve power to block the repatriation of foreign national prisoners from Northern Ireland following the devolution of criminal justice and policing; and if he will make a statement. [304526]

**Paul Goggins:** While the repatriation of foreign prisoners will become the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Minister for Justice after the devolution of criminal justice and policing, decisions on the grounds of national security will, however, remain excepted.

New primary legislation would not be required. The grounds of national security would be interpreted consistently with case law.

### Terrorism: Compensation

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much compensation has been paid out to those affected by terrorist activity in Northern Ireland in each year since 1979. [305412]

**Paul Goggins:** The Compensation Agency is unable to provide the information requested, as the records held do not identify separately claims made as a result of terrorist activity.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Climate Change

18. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of the UK's adaptation to climate change; and if he will make a statement. [305592]

**Dan Norris:** Since the Climate Change Act came into force earlier this year, we have:

launched the UK Climate Projections 09

established the Adaptation Sub Committee; and

set out the strategy for using the Adaptation Reporting Power

The Adapting to Climate Change Programme is driving work on the first UK Climate Change Risk Assessment which will report in January 2012, in line with the timetable set out in the 2009 Act.

### Food Labelling

21. **John Penrose:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on country of origin food labelling. [305596]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues and the Food Standards Agency to ensure that we have tighter, clearer and more accurate origin labelling.

### Waste-to-Energy Plants

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to increase the use of waste-to-energy plants; and if he will make a statement. [305575]

**Dan Norris:** The Government's Renewable Energy Strategy sets out current and future policies to divert biomass waste from landfill, support the supply of biomass waste for energy, and drive the delivery of the necessary infrastructure.

DEFRA has established the Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme to support local authorities and accelerate the building of the infrastructure needed to treat residual waste.

### Biodiversity

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department *(a)* concluded and *(b)* expects to publish its most recent assessment of the status of the Biodiversity Action Plan, Priority Species and Priority Habitats. [305797]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The most recent assessment of the status of Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species and Habitats was published in April 2009, as part of the update to the UK Biodiversity Indicators in Your Pocket. This can be found on the website of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures he has put in place to halt biodiversity loss beyond the expiry of the EU's 2010 targets; and if he will make a statement. [305798]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** We are fully committed to identifying a new challenging 'post 2010' biodiversity target and we are playing a leading role in establishing it. For example, earlier this year, we hosted an international workshop in Reading which reviewed the 2010 indicators and considered implications for post 2010 indicator development. We have also been feeding into key discussions at EU and global level on the development of the post 2010 framework. Linked to this, we will co-host an international workshop with Brazil in January. This will be a key stepping stone on the path to agreeing a post 2010 target, or targets, in Japan next October.

Within the UK, we have published targets to increase the population and range of our priority species and restore and expand priority habitats by 2015.

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of progress since February 2009 towards meeting the objectives set out in the EU's 2010 targets to halt biodiversity loss; and if he will make a statement. [305799]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The European Commission and member states are currently compiling data to allow an assessment next year of progress against the targets in the EU Biodiversity Action Plan. We measure our progress towards the EU's 2010 target to halt biodiversity loss through the UK Biodiversity Indicators. This was reported in the National Statistics publication "Biodiversity Indicators in Your Pocket 2007", which was updated most recently in April 2009. Statistics for wild birds were updated in October 2009 and those for sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) are updated monthly.

Overall, 23 (72 per cent.) of the 32 measures that comprise the UK Biodiversity Indicators are "improving" or show "little or no overall change" since the year 2000. In particular, 89 per cent. of SSSIs are in favourable or recovering condition, agri-environment schemes are leading to significant improvements, and we have made great strides with the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

## Fisheries: White Fish

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultation his Department undertook with the under 10 metre fishing industry regarding the introduction of the 500kg cod lottery draw. [306058]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** No formal consultation exercise was undertaken with the 10 metre and under fishing industry about the allocation of the additional 18 tonnes of cod quota in area VIId. It was not possible given the very short time available to arrange access to the additional fishing opportunity and still allow fishermen a reasonable chance to catch the fish before the end of the year.

The Marine and Fisheries Agency did, however, consult a number of individual fishermen on the south coast of England on a strictly informal basis on alternative allocation approaches before the final method of allocation was decided upon.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the likely effects on the under 10 metre fishing industry of the introduction of the 500kg cod lottery draw. [306059]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The additional 18 tonnes of quota the Marine and Fisheries Agency was able to obtain for the inshore vessels to fish for cod in area VIId will prove a valuable, if limited, fishing opportunity for those vessels that received the quota. It is estimated that the additional quota will have a total value of c.£36,000 at current market prices, or £1,000 for each vessel that receives an allocation of 500kg of quota. An allocation of 500kg of quota per vessel should allow those vessels to undertake normal fishing activity and minimise discards in a mixed fishery until the end of the year.

Given the strictly limited quota available, it was not possible to open the fishery to all the licensed vessels that may have wished to take part in the fishery and remain confident of meeting the UK obligations in ensuring there is no overfish of this quota.

## Flood Control

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of Ofwat's final determination on the ability of water companies to provide alternative water supplies in the event of contamination of usual supplies by flooding; and what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of water companies to increase the resilience of their water treatment plants to flooding. [304954]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Water companies have to provide a safe and secure water supply. It is for the companies themselves to take responsibility and make decisions on how best to protect the essential services they supply.

In its final determination Ofwat included over £414 million to improve the resilience of water and sewerage services against external hazards such as flooding.

Companies are also obliged to have emergency plans in place to maintain supply either through network resilience or deployment of bowsers, for which Ofwat has also allowed funding.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the chief engineers and regional engineers in each region of England are no longer in place; and what alternative structure is in place for the carrying out of their functions. [304955]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA has given the Environment Agency a strategic overview of flood and coastal erosion risk management and, in line with this, passed it the management of the capital improvements programme. The chief engineer and regional engineers were primarily focused on this work.

To facilitate this transition the Environment Agency has strengthened its role at both regional and area levels, for example, by recruiting additional coastal engineers. DEFRA also seconded staff to the Environment Agency to ensure continuity of work and training.

DEFRA retains a smaller cadre of engineers and other experienced professionals who provide input to policy development and an intelligent client function for the flood and coastal erosion risk management programme.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people are registered with Floodline Warnings Direct. [305075]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Environment Agency has over 450,000 registered users on Floodline Warnings Direct.

The Environment Agency's Floodline Warnings Direct is a free service that provides flood warnings direct to users by telephone, mobile, email, SMS text message and fax.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects a final national flood emergency framework to be implemented. [305076]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** A fully developed National Flood Emergency Framework will be in place by June 2010, in line with the commitment given in response to Sir Michael Pitt's review on the 2007 floods. The Framework will provide the basis for Exercise Watermark—our planned national exercise in March 2011.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on flood defences in each of the last five years. [305230]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA provides funding to operating authorities for flood defences from the allocation of funding for flood and coastal erosion risk management. Over the past five financial years this allocation totalled:

| *Financial year* | *DEFRA funding (£ million)* |
|---|---:|
| 2008-09 | 568.1 |
| 2007-08 | 507.5 |
| 2006-07 | 506.0 |
| 2005-06 | 514.8 |
| 2004-05 | 415.4 |

## Forests

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the proposed sites for tree-planting as recommended by the National Assessment of Forestry and Climate Change. [305624]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The National Assessment of Forestry and Climate Change published on 25 November does not put forward any specific sites for tree planting and we have not received any representations.

Our Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests puts a strong emphasis on planting the right tree in the right place and we will be taking an integrated approach to see where additional woodland can complement other activities.

## Forests: West Midlands

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to take steps to increase the area of woodland in the West Midlands. [305625]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** As part of the Low Carbon Transition Plan announced in July, the Forestry Commission and DEFRA are working to develop the framework that would be needed to enable 10,000 hectares of new woodland to be created each year for the next 15 years. As part of this, the Forestry Commission will be working with partners in each region to identify the scope for increasing the area of woodland.

## Horticulture

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures he is considering to increase the amount of home-grown horticultural produce; and if he will make a statement. [305583]

**Hilary Benn:** On 21 October I chaired the first meeting of the fruit and vegetable task force. It will look at how we can boost domestic production and consumption of fruit and vegetables in England. This is in addition to the support already provided which includes funding up to £7 million of research and development last year on horticultural crops.

## International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the outcomes of the International Union for Conservation of Nature meeting held on 26 November 2009. [305623]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Secretary of State co-hosted this roundtable event along with Ashok Khosla, the President of the International Union of Conservation and Nature, in support of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration. In the co-chairs' summary, "The London Challenge", they recognise the progress made by the partnership since its establishment in 2003, the considerable potential for forest restoration globally and the important role of forest restoration in both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Work on restoration complements the work we are doing to tackle deforestation and forest degradation. The summary goes on to reflect issues raised by participants and actions to take forest restoration forward in the coming months. The final summary will be posted on the partnership's website following its distribution to participants.

## Marine Management Organisation

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on consultancy fees during the selection process of the headquarters of the Marine Management Organisation. [305085]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA has paid £6,900 in respect of property consultancy, including the site search and financial appraisal of the property options, for the Marine Management Organisation headquarters building in Newcastle.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements have been made for the temporary accommodation of Marine and Fisheries Agency staff in Newcastle before moving to Lancaster House; and what expenditure he expects his Department to incur on such temporary accommodation. [305086]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Since the beginning of October 2009, interim accommodation for Marine and Fisheries Agency staff based in Newcastle has been the Government Office North East. Additional accommodation from 14 December will be in city centre commercial offices. It is estimated that the cost of this interim accommodation will amount to approximately £150,000.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure has been incurred on recruitment agencies engaged to recruit staff for the Marine and Fisheries Agency in the last 12 months. [305087]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** In the 12 months up to November 2009, approximately £153,000 of expenditure had been incurred on recruitment agencies as part of a continuing exercise to recruit Marine and Fisheries Agency staff.

### Salmon: River Dee

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has made a recent estimate of the size of the population of salmon in the River Dee. [305341]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Environment Agency carries out an annual assessment of the number of adult salmon entering the River Dee using data from a fish trap at Chester Weir. The latest available assessment indicates a population of 5,437 adult salmon entering the River Dee in 2008.

## TRANSPORT

### Bridges: Workington

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans there are to build a bailey bridge capable of taking wheeled vehicles across the River Derwent in Workington, Cumbria. [304488]

**Mr. Khan:** Following the recent floods in Cumbria an immediate priority in Workington is to improve transport links for communities on either side of the River Derwent, which have been significantly curtailed.

The Government are working closely with Cumbria county council on re-establishing those transport links. An additional rail station has been built at North Workington to allow a shuttle rail service to operate. The Army have also built a temporary footbridge, which opened on 7 December. These facilities are being supported with Government funding.

Cumbria county council are considering what measures would be appropriate to restore road vehicle links across the River Derwent at Workington. The Department for Transport is funding project management support to assist the authority with their infrastructure recovery planning. When Cumbria county council decides on how to restore road vehicle links, they will be able to include the costs in their claim to the Department for emergency capital highway maintenance funding.

### Bus Services: Finance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what bids for funding for new and enhanced bus services for local authorities and their partners he has received under the Kickstart Bus Funding Competition announced in January 2009; and when he plans to announce the successful schemes to be funded. [304274]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport received 105 bids for funding, totalling £63 million, from local authorities across England. An announcement will be made in due course.

### Bus Services: Lincolnshire

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has paid in grants to North East Lincolnshire local authority to provide free bus travel for pensioners in the last 12 months. [304428]

**Mr. Khan:** In the last 12 months, The Department for Transport has made payments totalling £614,039 in respect of concessionary travel special grant to North East Lincolnshire. The special grant provides funding solely to cover the extra costs that followed from the improvement to the statutory concession to all-England travel in April 2008. The Department for Communities and Local Government continues to provide the bulk of concessionary travel funding to local authorities through Formula Grant.

### Crossrail Line

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many lorry movements carrying waste from tunnelling as part of the Crossrail project he estimates will take place in each month in 2012. [304287]

**Mr. Khan:** It is estimated that there will be around 60 lorry movements carrying waste from tunnelling as part of the Crossrail project per day during 2012. The need to reduce the number of such movements during the periods of the Olympic and Paralympic Games is recognised and is being actively considered by Crossrail Ltd. in consultation with the Olympic Delivery Authority, although the precise details will not be known until nearer the time.

85 per cent. of the excavated material from the tunnel drives will be removed by rail and boat, removing an estimated 500,000 lorry movements from the streets of London during the life of the project.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport by what means *(a)* contaminated tunnel waste, *(b)* non-contaminated tunnel waste and *(c)* waste of indeterminate quality from the Crossrail project will be disposed of. [304288]

**Mr. Khan:** Virtually all of the 7.3 million $m^3$ of excavated material is expected to be clean and non-contaminated and can be reused elsewhere. A significant proportion of this material will be transported to Wallasea Island in Essex to enhance a nature reserve for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). This will be one of the largest new wetland nature reserves in Europe for some 50 years. Other sites being considered for this material include South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA) regeneration sites in Kent.

If any contaminated material or waste of indeterminate quality is found it will be transported to a specialist treatment facility.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what requirements he has identified for the need to stockpile waste during the construction phase of the Crossrail project. [304289]

**Mr. Khan:** It is anticipated that all categories of excavated material will be transported straight to its intended destination without the need for stockpiling. However, each construction site will have limited stockpiling capacity in case of unforeseen incidents on the rail, water or road networks.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the *(a)* carbon footprint and *(b)* environmental sustainability of (i) the construction of Crossrail and (ii) the completed scheme; and what benchmarking exercises his Department has carried out in this respect. [304290]

**Mr. Khan:** The carbon footprint and environmental impacts of Crossrail during both construction and operation were assessed and presented in the Crossrail Environmental Statement, which was published in February 2005.

As a sustainable transport project Crossrail forms part of the Mayor of London's 'London Plan' which was itself subject to a sustainability assessment.

In addition Crossrail has worked with the Building Research Establishment to develop a BRE Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) for its sub-surface stations and is using that and the Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Assessment and Award Scheme (CEEQUAL) to benchmark the environmental performance of its designs.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what preparations have been made to reduce the effect of lorry movements associated with Crossrail construction during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [304291]

**Mr. Khan:** Crossrail Ltd. and the Olympic Delivery Authority are working together to ensure that the Games proceed unhindered, and to ensure that the impact of Crossrail works is minimised during the Olympic/Paralympic Games periods.

The need to reduce the number of lorry movements during the periods of the Olympic and Paralympic Games is recognised and is being actively considered. The precise details will not be known until nearer the time.

### Departmental Plants

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much has been spent by his Department on *(a)* cut flowers and *(b)* pot plants in each of the last three years. [306145]

**Chris Mole:** The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the Department for Transport spent £87,401 on pot plants and £3,419 on cut flowers in 2008-09. This excludes spend incurred at the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency as the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Spend on pot plants includes provision, maintenance and replacement of plants.

All expenditure was incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what payments the British Transport Police has made to *(a)* Grayling Political Strategy and *(b)* Politics International in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [305129]

**Chris Mole:** This is a matter for the British Transport Police who can be contacted at 25 Camden Road, London, NW1 9LN, e-mail:

parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what payments Cycling England has made to Blue Rubicon in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305130]

**Mr. Khan:** Blue Rubicon has been contracted through the Central Office of Information (COI) to provide public relations services to Cycling England. The agency delivers a programme of activity targeting consumers and engaging stakeholders with the aim of getting more people cycling, more safely, more often. A key focus of Blue Rubicon's work is the promotion of Bikeability cycle training for children (supporting the Government's goal of training an additional 500,000 children by 2012).

In the 12 months from November 2008 to October 2009, £493,177 was paid to Blue Rubicon in connection with the provision of such services. A further £432,985 was spent on external expenses (such as the supply of Bikeability badges) associated with the Cycling England campaign and procured through Blue Rubicon. In total, £926,162 was spent over the 12 months. During this period, the contract was retendered and refocused. As a result, the total value of work for the seven months from April to October 2009 was just over £321,000.

Blue Rubicon's contract is with the COI who have released a copy of the terms and conditions of the contract and their brief for the work. These have been placed in the Libraries.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what payments the Civil Aviation Authority has made to *(a)* Waterfront Public Affairs and *(b)* AS Biss/Mandate Communications in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [305131]

**Paul Clark:** The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) informs us that they have paid Waterfront Public Affairs a net amount of £96,019.80 in the last 12 months. This was for providing a public affairs and public relations consultancy service to the CAA. No payments have been made to AS Biss/Mandate Communications in the last 12 months. A copy of the Waterfront Public Affairs contract will be made available in the Libraries of the House.

### Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 645W, on departmental rail travel, whether *(a)* his Department's travel policy and *(b)* the travel policy of his Department's agencies allows staff to make claims from the public purse for travel in first class rail carriages in circumstances on which there are no seats in standard class available. [305148]

**Chris Mole:** The travel policies of the central Department and of its agencies allow claims for first class travel in circumstances on which standard class seats are unavailable.

### East Coast Railway Line: Rolling Stock

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the cost of refurbishing existing rolling stock on the East Coast Main Line to enable it to be used *(a)* up to and *(b)* beyond 2019. [301211]

**Chris Mole:** In order to provide a comparison with the costs of the new Super Express Trains, which will operate on the East Coast Main Line from 2014, the Department for Transport has prepared an estimate of the costs of the alternative: of continuing to operate the existing intercity rolling stock beyond that time. This includes the period leading up to as well as the period beyond 2019. Release of this comparator information at this stage would diminish the Department's commercial position in negotiations with the preferred bidder, Agility Trains. We therefore remain convinced of the value for money of replacing the old rolling stock with the new Super Express Train, especially in the context of an extensive electrification programme.

### Road Salting and Gritting

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on *(a)* contingency plans in the event of snow and *(b)* the stockpiling of road grit. [305562]

**Mr. Khan:** It is for each local authority to determine how best to set and deliver a winter service strategy for the highway network for which they are responsible. The Department for Transport has not issued formal guidance to local authorities on this, but endorses the UK Roads Liaison Group's (UKRLG) code of practice on highways maintenance management, "Well-maintained Highways", which includes guidance on winter service. The code is available free from:

www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org

Following the severe weather in February this year, the then Secretary of State commissioned the UK Roads Liaison Group to identify the lessons that should be learnt regarding highway authorities' preparedness for extreme weather events. I will respond to the UKRLG's report shortly.

### Roads: Accidents

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of road traffic accidents caused by partial parking on kerbs where the kerb is higher than four inches in the last 12 months. [305297]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is not collected.

### Transport: Expenditure

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent per capita on transport *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital schemes in (i) England, (ii) each Government region and (iii) the City of York Council area in each year since 1996-97. [304547]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport publishes estimates of its total expenditure on services per head by region and country in its annual report. These figures rest on a number of assumptions, for example about how total expenditure on strategic highways and rail should be attributed to different regions, and figures are not available below regional level. The report does not include the split between revenue and capital schemes.

However, a further analysis showing the breakdown between revenue and capital schemes per capita for the Department since its formation in May 2002 is provided in the following table:

*Department for Transport revenue and capital expenditure per capita*

| Region | CAP or CUR | 2002-03[1] | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | CAP | — | 5 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 9 |
| | CUR | 65 | 79 | 70 | 77 | 111 | 109 |

*Department for Transport revenue and capital expenditure per capita*

| *Region* | *CAP or CUR* | *2002-03*[1] | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North West | CAP | — | 8 | 9 | 9 | 14 | 16 |
| | CUR | 81 | 102 | 114 | 111 | 148 | 153 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | CAP | — | 5 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 9 |
| | CUR | 67 | 82 | 73 | 76 | 119 | 114 |
| East Midlands | CAP | — | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 9 |
| | CUR | 90 | 100 | 94 | 104 | 127 | 114 |
| West Midlands | CAP | — | 7 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 12 |
| | CUR | 85 | 105 | 125 | 121 | 143 | 142 |
| East | CAP | — | 5 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 8 |
| | CUR | 86 | 92 | 73 | 75 | 104 | 99 |
| London | CAP | — | 30 | 12 | 13 | 19 | 20 |
| | CUR | 135 | 285 | 116 | 107 | 141 | 142 |
| South East | CAP | — | 12 | 13 | 13 | 17 | 16 |
| | CUR | 90 | 155 | 153 | 146 | 182 | 175 |
| South West | CAP | — | 5 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 10 |
| | CUR | 71 | 89 | 100 | 113 | 148 | 134 |
| England | CAP | — | 6 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 10 |
| | CUR | 89 | 133 | 107 | 107 | 141 | 136 |

[1] The figures proved for 2002-03 are aggregate.

These figures do not include grant support provided by the Department to local authorities. Revenue support to authorities for transport is generally provided through the Revenue Support Grant. Amounts provided to York city council in these years are as follows:

*£ millions*

| | *LTP funding* | *Pre-LTP funding* | *Major projects* | *Total capital funding* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 4.856 | — | — | 4.856 |
| 2008-09 | 5.116 | — | — | 5.116 |
| 2007-08 | 5.560 | — | — | 5.560 |
| 2006-07 | 5.864 | — | — | 5.864 |
| 2005-06 | 6.225 | — | — | 6.225 |
| 2004-05 | 6.302 | — | — | 6.302 |
| 2003-04 | 5.981 | — | — | 5.981 |
| 2002-03 | 5.555 | — | — | 5.555 |
| 2001-02 | 5.995 | — | — | 5.995 |
| 2000-01 | 2.262 | — | — | 2.262 |
| 1999-2000 | | 1.983 | — | 1.983 |
| 1998-99 | | 1.127 | — | 1.127 |
| 1997-98 | — | 2.212 | 0.977 | 3.189 |
| 1996-97 | No data | No data | 2.262 | 2.262 |

## Transport: Per Capita Costs

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much transport spending per person by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies there was on (i) light rail, (ii) heavy rail, (iii) bus and (iv) roads in (A) Yorkshire and Humber and (B) London in each year since 2005. [305767]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport publishes estimates of its total expenditure on services per head by region and country in its annual report. These figures rest on a number of assumptions, for example about how total expenditure on strategic highways and rail should be attributed to different regions.

These figures exclude grant to local authorities, including Greater London Authority Transport Grant, as this information is collated separately by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Department for Work and Pensions and devolved Administrations.

The report does not provide a specific breakdown per capital for light rail, heavy rail, bus and roads.

To provide a detailed estimate of the figures on the basis sought would incur disproportionate cost.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he will respond to question 301331, tabled by the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire on 19 November 2009, on departmental working practices. [305878]

**Chris Mole:** A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 9 December 2009.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Prime Minister how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303940]

**The Prime Minister:** It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on security matters.

### Dept for Business, Innovation and Skills

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the *(a)* advantages and *(b)* disadvantages of the merger of the Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Innovation, Universities and Skills. [303932]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the machinery of government press notice issued by my Office. Copies are available in the Library of the House and are also available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19525

### Iraq Committee of Inquiry: Disclosure of Information

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister what protocols have been agreed between the Government and the Iraq Inquiry on the disclosure and publication of documents provided to the Committee. [304131]

**Tessa Jowell:** I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Cabinet Office press release of 29 October publishing the information sharing protocol the Government have agreed with the Iraq Inquiry. This is the only protocol agreed between the Government and the Inquiry.

### Members: Surveillance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 366W, on Members: surveillance, if he will provide the information requested in respect of unreported interceptions since 1975. [304285]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave on 30 November 2009.

### Trinidad and Tobago: Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Prime Minister what *(a)* discussions he had and *(b)* conclusions were reached at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009. [304527]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 113WS.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Bangladesh: Climate Change

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to Bangladesh to help combat the effect of climate change; and if he will make a statement. [305288]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for International Development (DFID) works closely with the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) on climate change issues. DFID:

Assisted the GoB in developing a national Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and provided £60 million to help implement them.

Provided more than £6 million since 2004 to support disaster preparedness in the regions of Bangladesh most vulnerable to severe climate shocks. We are providing a further £12 million to support this work over the next five year, covering a wider area. This programme is implemented by UNDP and co-financed by the European Union. It is also part of Bangladesh's Climate Change Strategy.

Is providing £690,000 to research institutions and universities in Bangladesh to increase national capacity to assess the impacts of climate change and improve Bangladesh's climate adaptation strategy and activities.

Is building the country's resilience to climate change through improved governance, health, education and job opportunities.

### Bangladesh: International Assistance

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to Bangladesh for the construction of cyclone defences following Cyclone Sidr in 2007. [305290]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK provided around £20 million in response to three natural disasters in 2007, including Cyclone Sidr. Approximately £2 million has been used to repair damaged coastal defences and build shelter homes in areas affected by Cyclone Sidr.

The World Bank has launched a special project called the Emergency Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project (ECRP). This is a £138 million (US $226 million) project of which £19 million (US$ 30 million) has been specifically allocated to repair the embankments damaged by Cyclone Sidr. The UK has contributed £19.6 million to this project through our support to the World Bank International Development Association 15 fund.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305214]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has one telephone number with the prefix 0845. This is used by the Department's Public Enquiry Point in our office in Scotland. DFID pay a fixed annual fee for this telephone line which includes rental and all outgoing call charges. This line is managed via the Governments Management Telecoms Service and DFID does not receive any payment for calls made to this number. Calls to this number are charged at the local rate.

DFID does not keep a record of calls made to the 0845 number, this information would need to be specifically requested from our supplier.

DFID do not have any telephone lines with the prefix 0800 or 0870.

## HEALTH

### Autism: Health Services

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research into cerebral inhibition soothing behaviours and the compromised capacity of persons who are autistic undertaken by autism spectrum experts his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated; and if he will make a statement. [305721]

**Gillian Merron:** Neither the Department nor the Medical Research Council (MRC) is currently supporting or evaluating research relating to cerebral inhibition soothing behaviours and the compromised capacity of persons who are autistic. Both fund a portfolio of other research relating to autism on which the MRC, for example, spent over £2.4 million in 2008-09.

### Christmas

**Mr. Hutt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [306147]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has budgeted for £3,250 for Christmas trees in 2009.

### Departmental Finance

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for the Personal Care at Home Bill, which budgets within his Department will fund the Department's £420 million contribution in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13; and by how much in each case. [306014]

**Phil Hope:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 296W, to the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds).

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has allocated to the Aiming Higher for Disabled Children programme in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [305293]

**Phil Hope:** The 2009 Child Health Strategy, 'Healthy lives, brighter futures', confirmed that £340 million was included in primary care trust (PCT) baseline allocations by the Department of Health for disabled children for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11, to support the implementation of the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme and the children's palliative care strategy, 'Better Care: Better Lives'. This figure includes £30 million to deliver the priorities for children's palliative care. Neither the programme nor the strategy broke down the funding by year. It is for PCTs to determine how best to use this funding based on local needs.

Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

### Mental Capacity Act 2005

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions the Mental Capacity Act 2005 has been invoked in order to modify the situation pertaining to someone with disability in order to maximise their individual capacity; and if he will make a statement. [305722]

**Phil Hope:** This information is not collected.

### Mental Health Services

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of implementation of the National Service Framework for mental health; and if he will make a statement. [305913]

**Phil Hope:** No recent assessment has been made of the level of implementation of the National Service Framework (NSF). However, we know that the NSF has led to an impressive range of policy initiatives in a previously neglected area of service provision. We have seen many benefits for people who use mental health services in the form of more money, with real terms investment in adult mental health services increasing by 44 per cent. (or £1.7 billion), since 2001-02. We also know that more patients have been helped, with crisis resolution teams providing over 106,000 home treatments to patients in the year 2007-08.

Further, because of the NSF the national health service now has 64 per cent. more consultant psychiatrists, 71 per cent. more clinical psychologists and 21 per cent. more mental health nurses than it had in 1997, and over 740 new community mental health teams offering home treatment, early intervention, or intensive support for people who might otherwise have been admitted to hospital.

## Mental Health Services: Finance

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to the provision of cognitive behavioural therapy in each primary care trust in each of the last five years. [305483]

**Phil Hope:** The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme's principal ai[illegible] to support primary care trusts (PCTs) in implemen[illegible] National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellen[illegible] guidelines for people suffering from depression and anxiety disorders.

To date, IAPT has focused solely on the provision of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT). IAPT has allocated funds centrally to the national health service in each of the last two years, rather than directly and individually to each PCT.

This centrally allocated money has seen £33 million allocated in 2008-09, with 35 IAPT services established. A further £70 million (to a total of £103 million) has been centrally allocated in 2009-10, with 115 IAPT services established. In 2010-11, a further £70 million (to a total of £173 million) will be allocated.

The expansion of sites are part of a phased roll-out and services will be beginning to be implemented in every PCT by 2011 and the NHS is committed to delivering universal coverage in the period after 2011. Prior to the start of the IAPT programme in 2008, CBT provision was not funded through centrally allocated money. Information about spending on CBT prior to 2008-09 is not collected by the Department but is held by PCTs.

## Neuroblastoma

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy that monoclonal antibody therapy is available to NHS patients diagnosed with neuroblastoma. [305803]

**Ann Keen:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not issued any guidance on monoclonal antibody therapy for the treatment of neuroblastoma.

In the absence of NICE guidance, it is a matter for local national health service organisations to decide whether to fund a particular drug or treatment. The NHS Constitution gives patients the right to expect local funding decisions on the availability of drugs and treatments to be made rationally following consideration of the available evidence.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the number of children who have neuroblastoma. [305804]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of patients with neuroblastoma (prevalence) is not held centrally, nor has any estimate been made.

However, the following table shows the number of children and young people aged 19 and under diagnosed with an unspecified adrenal gland cancer, which could include neuroblastoma, during 2007. This is the latest year for which incidence data are available.

*Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of adrenal gland, unspecified cancer[1], in persons aged 19 years and under by age group in England[2] during 2007[3]*

| *Age of person diagnosed (years)* | *Number of cancers diagnosed* |
|---|---|
| Less than 1 | 7 |
| 1-4 | 19 |
| 5-9 | 5 |
| 10-14 | 0 |
| 15-19 | [4] |

[1] Adrenal gland, unspecified cancer (including neuroblastoma) is coded as C74.9 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Newly diagnosed cases registered in 2007.

[4] For young people aged 15-19, the reported incidence levels indicate less than three individuals. Due to this small cell count, the data have been suppressed to avoid the risk of disclosure.

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government have allocated to research to find a cure for neuroblastoma. [305805]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department's National Institute for Health Research is undertaking translational research specifically concerned with neuroblastoma at two of its Biomedical Research Centres; and via its national cancer research network is currently supporting some nine studies into the condition. The Department has additionally invested over £1 million in experimental cancer medicine centres specifically to support early-phase clinical trials for children with cancer, including trials for children with neuroblastoma. It is not possible to disaggregate the cost of these research activities.

## Social Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the economic modelling used for the Shaping the Future of Care Together consultation. [305697]

**Phil Hope:** The Department is working towards publishing a White Paper on care and support in early 2010. They have been working with the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) to provide the modelling and analysis to underpin our policy development. We were provided with an interim report from PSSRU in November but that report was based on a view of the system when the Green Paper was published. Our core modelling assumptions have changed quite significantly since then as a result of our stakeholder engagement, responses to our consultation and developments such as the Prime Minister's announcement on free personal care. The report is therefore only part of the story and we have come to the conclusion that to publish it now could be unhelpful to the wider debate on the future of care and support.

PSSRU continue to model the costs and benefits of a new National Care Service based on revised assumptions.

The whole methodology of the interim report was published in July on the PSSRU's website at:

www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2644.pdf

The top level costs and benefits are in the impact assessment published with the Green Paper and available on the Big Care Debate website at:

http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/greenpaper/the-green-paper-and-supporting-documents/

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent consideration he has given to raising the charges for lower levels of need in order to subsidise free personal care at the critical level. [305740]

**Phil Hope:** Setting charges for social care is a matter for local authorities. Free personal care will be funded by an additional £420 million from central Government and £250 million from local government efficiency savings.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 5.14 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill; what assessment he has made of the likely effect on small businesses in the care sector if individuals and local authorities do not use money that would have been spent on personal care for other purchases. [305742]

**Phil Hope:** The impact assessment published alongside the current consultation document, "Personal Care at Home: a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance", sets out the current considerations on the impact on small firms. Both documents have already been placed in the Library.

The consultation will close on 23 February 2010 and a response to the document will be published subsequently. We will also be undertaking direct stakeholder engagement alongside the consultation process and this will be considered as part of this.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the purposes set out for the Personal Care at Home Bill vary between page two of the impact assessment, paragraph 7.2 of the impact assessment and the human rights section of the relevant explanatory note. [305751]

**Phil Hope:** The different sections of text referred to are intended to detail differing aspects of the Personal Care at Home Bill. Therefore, differing explanations are required to appropriately define each section of the text. There are no inconsistencies between them.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what recent assessment he has made of the risk of catastrophic costs being incurred. [305976]

**Phil Hope:** Paragraph 5.6 of the impact assessment recognises that the costs of meeting personal care needs will be greater for individuals in higher need and that, if these costs are incurred over an extended period of time, they may sum to a significant and in some cases catastrophic, amount.

It is this risk, which cannot be well insured against in the current market, that the Personal Care at Home Bill is seeking to reduce for individuals in highest need.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he had with Ministerial colleagues in respect of the formulation of his policy on the provision of free personal care at home. [305977]

**Phil Hope:** In formulating policy proposals as part of the Personal Care at Home Bill, there were appropriate ministerial level discussions and clearances.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect of future demographic changes on the provision of free personal care; and if he will make a statement; [306151]

(2) what models his Department has commissioned to assess the future provision of free personal care for those people with the highest needs; and if he will make a statement. [306154]

**Phil Hope:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 166W.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the geographical distribution of the provision of free personal care; and if he will make a statement. [306152]

**Phil Hope:** I refer the hon. Member to the replies I gave to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 294W.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department defines eligibility in relation to the provision of free personal care; and if he will make a statement. [306153]

**Phil Hope:** Eligibility in relation to the provision of free personal care is set out in the consultation document, "Personal Care at Home: a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance" and comments are invited. The consultation will close on 23 February 2010 and will inform the drafting of regulations which will define the scheme.

The consultation document has already been placed in the Library.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Christmas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department in each year since its establishment; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305644]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department has purchased no Christmas trees.

### Climate Change

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department attended the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit; what methods of transport each used to travel (a) to and (b) from the

Summit; and whether he has applied carbon offsets to carbon footprint of the collective travel of the UK delegation to the Summit. [305847]

**Joan Ruddock:** Two Ministers and 38 officials from the Department of Energy and Climate Change are in Copenhagen, or will be shortly arriving in Copenhagen, to attend the UNFCCC summit on Climate Change. Seven delegates travelled by rail, 28 by plane, and five have yet to determine their method of travel. All of DECC's travel emissions are offset.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since its inception; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens. [306086]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department has purchased no plasma screen televisions.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost was of his Department's 1st Anniversary Stakeholder Reception held on 12 October 2009. [303405]

**Joan Ruddock:** The cost of the 12 October 2009 DECC 1st anniversary party was £21,937.71 +VAT.

### Departmental Publications

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he has taken to *(a)* inform interested parties of and *(b)* distribute his Department's publication The arrangements for the management and disposal of waste from new nuclear power stations: a summary of evidence; and how many copies of the document have been printed. [304416]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Planning Act 2008 requires the Government to consult the public and stakeholders on the National Policy Statements (NPSs) before they can be designated. The waste assessment summary evidence paper is part of a suite of documents supporting the draft Nuclear NPS, which is currently subject to a wide ranging national consultation lasting 15 weeks. As part of this programme the Government have corresponded with statutory consultees, have set up a dedicated NPS website and are conducting national and local engagement events targeting key stakeholders and members of the public. These have been widely advertised through print, broadcast and online media, as well as by generating PR coverage and targeted communications including leaflets and an email campaign.

The waste assessment summary evidence paper has not been printed in large quantities The document is available on the NPS consultation website for viewing or download, and DECC has so far printed over 100 copies from this source and made them available at local exhibition events.

### Departmental Taxis

**Ian Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred against each such contract in each year since his Department was established. [300842]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department has no contracts with private hire taxi companies.

### Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what hospitality officials in his Department and its predecessors with responsibility for the two miners' compensation schemes have received from Capita Group plc since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [302087]

**Mr. Kidney:** Capita became the Department's claims handling contractor in 2004. Information held by the Department on hospitality received since 2004 related to officials in the Coal Liability Unit (CLU) is provided in the following table:

*Hospitality received by officials responsible for the Coal Health Schemes*

| *Date received* | *Section* | *Staff by grade* | *Hospitality received* | *Total value (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| October 2005 | CLU | SCS plus staff below SCS (x 3) | Dinner | 120.00 |
| 23 June 2006 | CLU | SCS | Lunch | 10.00 |
| 26 July 2006 | CLU | SCS plus staff below SCS (x 1) | Dinner | 45.00 |
| August 2006 | CLU | SCS | Dinner | 25.00 |
| 29 March 2007 | CLU | SCS | Lunch | 10.00 |
| 18 September 2007 | CLU | SCS plus staff below SCS (x 1) | Lunch and dinner | 50.00 |
| 13 December 2007 | CLU | Staff below SCS (x 3) | Lunch | 90.00 |
| 30 July 2008 | CLU | Staff below SCS (x 3) | Lunch | 90.00 |
| 22 September 2008 | CLU | Staff below SCS | Meal | 20.00 |
| 22 July 2009 | CLU | Staff below SCS | Dinner | 25.00 |

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether Capita Group plc receives a financial benefit from reducing *(a)* the total money paid out and *(b)* the amount of money paid to individual claimants under each of the two miners' compensation schemes. [302089]

**Mr. Kidney:** I can confirm that there is no financial benefit to Capita in respect to *(a)* or *(b)* under the Department's contractual arrangements for claims handling for the vibration white finger and respiratory disease schemes.

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what evaluation his Department has made of the effectiveness for claimants of the Coal Health Compensation Scheme. [304683]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Coal Health Compensation Schemes have been closely scrutinised by a range of reviews including the Boys Smith Review conducted in 2005 for the then Minister for Energy, my right hon. Friend the Member for Croydon, North (Malcolm Wicks); the Trade and Industry Select Committee Review in 2005; and the National Audit Office report in 2007 on the schemes and the subsequent Public Accounts Committee hearing in 2007 and Committee's Report in 2008.

I am proud that we are now moving towards the conclusion of these schemes under my ministerial 'watch'. We believe these are the biggest personal injury schemes in British legal history. They are complex schemes that were set up in agreement between the Department and the miners' solicitors' representatives following the original judgments in the 1990's and then endorsed by the High Court. This ensured that miners and their families received the level of compensation to which they might reasonably have been entitled had they pursed their claim in common law.

I believe that objective has been achieved as we now draw near to the completion of the vibration white finger (VWF) and respiratory disease schemes. In all almost 760,000 miners' claims have been processed and compensation now totalling £4.1 billion has been paid out.

The VWF litigation was wound up in the High Court on 1 May 2009 following the completion of processing nearly all the 170,000 claims. There are now fewer than 10 VWF general damages and 20 special damages scheme claims left to settle. There are also a small number of claims involving individual mediations or court actions to be concluded. For the respiratory scheme where we had nearly 590,000 claims there are now less than 2,000 active claims left to be settled and we are on track to achieving settlement of the majority of these by mid 2010.

However, it has not all been plain sailing. Clearly we have all learnt lessons from the operation of these schemes.

One of the key issues remains the conduct of solicitors in making deductions from compensation. I continue to hold regular meetings with the Legal Complaints Service (LCS) and Solicitors Regulatory Authority (SRA) and I know that this work remains an important focus for both organisations. I welcome recent developments both in terms of action taken against individual firms of solicitors and actions being taken by solicitors to offer repayment of deductions. I would urge firms that have not taken such actions to co-operate with the LCS.

I also recognise that despite the scale of these schemes it has taken too long for some claimants to receive the compensation they were entitled too. I apologise to those people who have had to wait so long. The key lesson here is about making sure information required to process claims is obtained at an early stage and the use of tight and binding timescales for all parties to manage the claims to be settlement. The successful fast track risk offer scheme has also demonstrated how claims can be settled more rapidly for some claimants.

In overall terms, I believe settling the claims has been a major achievement for this Government delivering over £4.1 billion in compensation to miners and their families. I would also like to pay tribute to those that have contributed to delivery of the schemes on behalf of the Department.

### Nuclear Power

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the merits of including in his Department's report, Appraisal of sustainability of the draft national nuclear policy statement: main report, published on 9 November 2009, an appraisal relating to the uranium mined for the nuclear fuel used in new reactors. [305241]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Appraisal of Sustainability is intended to assess the environmental and sustainability impacts of the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement and therefore focuses on those impacts which arise from the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement itself. The draft Nuclear National Policy Statement provides guidance to the Infrastructure Planning Commission on the construction and operation of new nuclear power stations. It does not cover mining or milling of uranium.

The Government have previously considered the environmental impacts of uranium mining and milling as part of the 2007 consultation on nuclear power. The Government published their response in the Nuclear White Paper in January 2008. In the Nuclear White Paper, the Government set out that conventional uranium mining do not differ significantly from mining of other metalliferous ores or coal for other types of power stations. Furthermore, an increasing proportion of the world's uranium now comes from in-situ leaching. This is a process that does not require the ore to be mined and generates much less waste, though it can have a negative impact on the water table and is not suitable for all types of uranium deposits. There are established environmental constraints, such as the regulations governing uranium mining in Australia which cover, among other things, environmental protection and the requirement to meet environmental approvals before mining proceeds. Additionally, most uranium mining companies in Australia and Canada, which supply much of the world's uranium, have achieved certification from the International Organisation for Standardisation. This body sets the standard for, and undertakes audits of, environmental management systems. These environmental constraints minimise the environmental impacts of mining operations.

The consultation on my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's proposed decisions on the regulatory justification of new nuclear power station designs, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House and are available at:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/reg_just_cons/reg_just_cons.aspx

also covers this issue. In the consultation, my right hon. Friend explains that he considers that he is not bound to take practices outside the UK into account in making a regulatory justification decision but he has none the less considered the issue in view of fact that various respondents to the previous consultation on the regulatory justification process had raised concerns about the issue.

### Renewable Energy: Heating

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he will be consulting on the Renewable Heat Incentive. [306003]

**Mr. Kidney:** We aim to publish the consultation on the renewable heat incentive (RHI) in January 2010. We had previously intended to publish the consultation by the end of 2009, however, we now plan to publish in January.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

**Mike Wood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will publish a Government response to future recommendations from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs; [306009]

(2) what factors he takes into consideration when assessing recommendations from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs; [306010]

(3) on what basis he rejected the recommendation of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs that cannabis should remain a class C drug. [306011]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** As my right hon. Friend the former Home Secretary, Member for Redditch (Jacqui Smith), advised in her statement to the House on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 705, the reclassification of cannabis as a Class B drug against the advice of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) was based on a number of factors, including but not limited to scientific evidence. Reclassification on 26 January 2009 is a preventative measure to protect the public, particularly the future health of young people.

The Government's Reply to the Fifth Report from the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee Session 2005-06 HC 1031 Drug classification: making a hash of it? can be found at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm69/6941/6941.pdf

sets out the factors, including the ACMD's recommendations, that are considered in relation to drug classification decisions.

The Government have published and will continue to publish responses to the recommendations in the reports of Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the cost to his Department of crime caused by alcohol misuse in each region in the last five years. [305399]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Home Office has estimated the cost of alcohol-related crime and disorder in England and Wales in 2007-08 as between £8-£13 billion per year. We are unable to break down this estimate by region.

### Anabolic Steroids

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* arrested, *(c)* charged and *(d)* convicted of offences related to the (i) possession and (ii) supply of anabolic steroids in each year since 2005. [304997]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information from the court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of defendants cautioned, proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the possession and supply of anabolic steroids in England and Wales, 2005-07 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

The Ministry of Justice do not collect charging data; proceeded against information has been provided in lieu.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. It is not possible to separate data on arrests related to the possession and supply of anabolic steroids from within these offence groups.

*Number of defendants cautioned, proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the possession and supply of anabolic steroids[1], England and Wales, 2005-07[2, 3, 4, 5]*

| | Cautioned | Proceeded against | Found guilty |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 28 | 16 | 15 |
| 2006 | 15 | 14 | 12 |
| 2007 | 24 | 22 | 14 |

[1] *Offence descriptions*

i. Supplying or offering to supply (or being concerned in supplying or offering to supply) a controlled drug: Anabolic Steroids Statute: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, section 4(3)

ii. Having possession of a controlled drug: Anabolic Steroids Statute: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, section 5(2)

iii. Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Anabolic Steroids Statute: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, section 5(3).

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] From 1 June 2000, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[4] The court statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

### Children: Abuse

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of his Department's budget was allocated to tackling child abuse and the viewing of images of child abuse online in each of the last five years. [304639]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Government set up the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) in 2006 to help protect children online. They have tackled both those who abuse children and those who are trading in images of such abuse. Since 2006 the Government have provided funding for the Centre as follows.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 5.360 |
| 2007-08 | 5.657 |
| 2008-09 | 6.270 |
| 2009-10 | 6.353 |

In addition, chief constables have their normal policing budget which they are able to use on the priorities for their forces. Any decision on funding or staffing for child protection activity is a matter for the chief constables for their area.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what further work he plans to undertake on the relationship between viewing images of child abuse online and child abuse. [304719]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Government's efforts on the relationship between viewing images of child abuse online and child abuse focus on the training courses provided by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre for child protection professionals. These courses are designed to do two things. Firstly, to help delegates better understand the nature of sexual offending and secondly to impart the skills and knowledge that can better equip professionals to deal with the difficult and distressing nature of this crime. Many of CEOP's training courses are based on material gathered during investigations, and case studies of sex offenders interviewed by CEOP's dedicated Behavioural Analysis Unit (BAU). The relationship between the use of images and contact offending is a key thread that runs through all of their project areas and something that is considered in all of the interviews that the BAU conduct with offenders.

### Crime and Disorder Act 1988

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of an offence under section 9(7) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 in each of the last five years. [301797]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information is provided by the Ministry of Justice on how many people have been convicted of an offence under section 9(7) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 in each of the last five years.

Information showing the number of persons proven at court to have breached a parenting order from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

*Number of defendants proven at court to have breached a parenting order, under Section 9(7) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, from 2003 to 2007*[1]

| | *Number of defendants* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 11 |
| 2004 | 20 |
| 2005 | 22 |
| 2006 | 25 |
| 2007 | 31 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

### Crimes of Violence: Females

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to his Department's Together we can end violence against women and girls strategy, from what budget the £5 million to be allocated to *(a)* independent domestic violence advocacy services, *(b)* sexual assault referral centres, *(c)* multi-agency risk assessment conferences and *(d)* local non-statutory support services for rape victims in 2010-11 will be drawn; whether the level of funding to other services funded from that budget will be changed as a consequence; and what plans his Department has for the level of such funding after 2010-11. [305312]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Government's strategy: Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls committed the Government to a continuing investment of over £5 million in 2010-11 in independent domestic violence advisers (IDVAs) and the further roll-out of multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACs). This will be sourced from both Home Office and Ministry of Justice budgets. The Home Office budget has funded IDVAs and MARACs since 2008-09 and these have always been key initiatives.

Funding for Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) comes from the Department of Health and Home Office. Funding for local non-statutory support services for rape victims (Rape Crisis and Survivors Trust) from the Ministry of Justice Victim's Fund and from the Government Equalities Office.

Levels of funding to other services for violence against women and girls have not been affected as a result of these allocations which continue and expand on resources committed to the same priorities in 2009-10.

The strategy commits the Government to prioritising investment in these specialist services after 2010-11.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to his Department's Together we can end violence against women and girls strategy, how much his Department plans to spend on *(a)* Connexions and other services working with schools to ensure they assist victims, *(b)* establishing a stalking and harassment helpline, *(c)* developing a sexual violence helpline and *(d)* meeting the Government's compact with the voluntary sector by moving to three-year funding arrangements in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) each of the subsequent three years; and from what budgets such funding will be drawn. [305314]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The cross-Government strategy Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls was launched on 25 November 2009.

*(a)* The role of Connexions and other services working with schools in tackling Violence Against Women and Girls will be informed by the Early Interventions Consultation which the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) will be launching in December 2009.

*(b)* The Stalking and Harassment helpline will be run in partnership by the three main charities who work in this area: the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, Network for Surviving Stalking and Protection Against Stalking. The Home Office has awarded the partnership £47,470 for the 2009-10 financial year. This will cover initial set up of the helpline, staff and recruitment costs and the development of a multi-media website with personal safety advice and information. Funding for 2010-11 has been guaranteed by additional partnership funding.

*(c)* Plans for a new sexual violence helpline, including levels of investment, will be agreed in 2010 by a cross-departmental delivery board which will have oversight on delivery of all actions in the strategy.

*(d)* Officials across Government are working together to consider what more we can do to address the sustainability of the violence against women third sector. This will include looking at how the commissioning of voluntary services can be made Compact compliant.

### Crimes of Violence: Knives

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* wounding or grievous bodily harm, *(b)* assault with injury and *(c)* robbery there were involving a knife in each month since May 1997. [304304]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Home Office has collected data on knife and sharp instrument offences since April 2007 via a special additional data collection, so it is not possible to give data back to May 1997.

Data are published annually. 2007-08 and 2008-09 data can be found in tables 7.11 and 7.12 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Crime in England and Wales 2008/09" at the following link.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0809.html

### Crimes of Violence: Retail Trade

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* cautions, *(b)* penalty notices for disorder and *(c)* convictions resulted from incidents of violence against retail staff in (i) North Yorkshire, (ii) Lancashire, (iii) London and (iv) England in each of the last three years. [305305]

**Claire Ward:** I have been asked to reply.

Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on cautions and court proceedings does not identify the employment status of a victim of an offence other than where specified in the statute. Therefore outcomes of violence against retail staff cannot be separately identified from other offences of assault and violence against the person.

Penalty notices for disorder are not available for violent offences or when injury has been caused. They are only intended to be used for certain low level antisocial behaviour and public order offences.

### Crimes of Violence: Taxis

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes were committed against taxi drivers in each region in each of the last two years. [305006]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information is not available centrally on the number violent crimes committed against taxi drivers.

### DNA: Databases

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) with reference to the written ministerial statement of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 25-28WS, on DNA and fingerprint retention, whether those stopped and searched under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 will have their DNA retained; [301933]

(2) how many people stopped and searched under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 have a record on the National DNA Database. [304024]

**Mr. Hanson:** The stop and search powers under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 do not include a power to take a DNA sample (or fingerprints) from a person.

However, if a person is arrested following a search under section 44, samples and fingerprints may be taken and will be retained. The relevant retention arrangements will then apply.

No figure is available in relation to the number of people initially stopped and searched under section 44, whose DNA has been retained because of a subsequent arrest. Profiles held on the national DNA database do not include the relevant legislation a person was arrested under, it only has the relevant police national computer (PNC) reference where this information would be held.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will bring forward proposals to amend the National DNA Database to take account of the recent ruling of the European Court of Human Rights; and if he will make a statement. [305171]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out the Government's proposals for implementing the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of S and Marper in a written ministerial statement on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 25WS. Legislation to give effect to these proposals is set out in the Crime and Security Bill, introduced on 19 November 2009.

### Domestic Violence

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the merits of systems to enable anonymous reporting of domestic abuse. [304222]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** There has not been a Government assessment of systems to enable anonymous reporting of domestic abuse.

The Government expect all incidents of domestic violence to be taken seriously, however, they are reported. The implementation of specialist domestic violence courts and independent domestic violence advisers demonstrates that the Government are committed to ensuring that victims are supported throughout their engagement with the criminal and civil justice system.

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the cost of full implementation of all of proposals of his Department's Together we can end violence against women and girls strategy. [305410]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The cross-Government strategy "Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls" was launched on 25 November 2009.

A comprehensive new burdens assessment will be published shortly.

### EU Law

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* statutory instruments and *(b)* other regulations his Department has brought forward to meet obligations arising from EU law in this parliament. [304178]

**Mr. Hanson:** Central records of statutory instruments made under specific powers have only been maintained by the Statutory Instruments Registrar since 2001. There are no central records maintained of "other regulations". Since that time the Home Office has made 33 statutory instruments to meet obligations arising from EU law, under powers contained in the European Communities Act 1972.

### Homophobia: Crime

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to reduce numbers of crimes of violence with a homophobic motive in the North West. [304221]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** In September 2009 we launched the Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan which contains a number of action points designed to reduce numbers of crimes of violence across all five hate crime strands, including sexual orientation. In particular, it commits the Home Office to produce guidance for Crime and Disorder Partnerships on preventing and responding to hate incidents and hate crimes.

There is also a range of activity taking place in the North West to combat hate crime targeted at lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals. For example, bar owners and door staff in and around the gay quarter of Liverpool have recently received hate crime awareness-raising training. Further, Liverpool's Hate Crime Reduction Forum which brings stakeholders together from across Liverpool to address all strands of hate crime, funded the As One programme which was an educational awareness programme focused on youth centres in the Kensington area encompassing antisocial behaviour and diversity awareness.

### Independent Police Complaints Commission

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will bring forward proposals to require the Independent Police Complaints Commission to inform his Department of the number of recommendations made by the Commission which have been *(a)* rejected and *(b)* implemented by the police force to which they are addressed; and if he will make a statement; [306101]

(2) how long on average police authorities have taken to make a response to recommendations of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in each of the last three years; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the IPCC and *(b)* police authorities on this issue; and if he will make a statement; [306102]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to require individual police forces to *(a)* accept, *(b)* respond to and *(c)* implement in full recommendations made by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC); and what (i) representations he has received from and (ii) discussions he has had with (A) police forces, (B) the IPCC and (C) members of the public on this issue in the last 12 months; [306103]

(4) if he will bring forward proposals to monitor the responses of police forces to the findings of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) which affect them; what recent discussions he has had with the IPCC on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [306104]

**Mr. Hanson:** One of the functions of the police complaints system is to ensure that lessons are learned so that the service the public receives can be improved. The recommendations made by the IPCC are an important element in that improvement process.

The Public Accounts Committee's Fifteenth Report on the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), published in March 2009, recommended that the Home Office clarify who is responsible for monitoring the implementation of IPCC recommendations made to police forces following an IPCC investigation.

The Home Office is considering with the IPCC, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Association of Police Authorities and the Association of Chief Police Officers the implementation of a suitable system for monitoring the implementation of IPCC recommendations, both at national and local level. We aim to have arrangements in place by spring 2010.

The specific information sought by the hon. Member is not collected by the Home Office.

### Mephedrone

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects on health of the use of mephedrone as a recreational drug; what advice he has received from the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs on mephodrone; and if he will make a statement. [302577]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Mephedrone (4-Methylmethcathinone) is a stimulant drug which is structurally related to cathinone and methcathinone, both of which are controlled substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) is currently considering the harms of Mephedrone and related cathinones compounds as a priority of its current review of so called 'legal highs', commissioned by the then Home Secretary earlier this year. The ACMD will report back early next year and their advice will inform our response to these substances. The Government's FRANK campaign provides information on Mephedrone with clear advice about its known harms provided by the Department of Health and our current 'legal highs' information campaign has included warnings about Mephedrone.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will bring forward proposals to prohibit the possession and supply of the recreational drug mephedrone; [306021]

(2) what recent meetings he has had with the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs to discuss the recreational drug mephedrone; and if he will make a statement. [306022]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Mephedrone (4-Methylmethcathinone) is a stimulant drug which is structurally related to cathinone and methcathinone, both of which are controlled substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. I had not met the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) specifically on this issue as they are already considering the harms of Mephedrone and related cathinones compounds as a priority of its current review of so called 'legal highs', commissioned by the then Home Secretary earlier this year. It is a statutory requirement that the ACMD are consulted before bringing an Order under the 1971 Act before Parliament. The ACMD will report back early next year and their advice will inform our consideration of the control of mephedrone under the 1971 Act.

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans his Department has to classify mephedrone as a controlled substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; and if he will make a statement; [306049]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the harm associated with the use of mephedrone; and if he will make a statement. [306050]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) is a stimulant drug which is structurally related to cathinone and methcathinone, both of which are controlled substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), who we are required by statute to consult before bringing an order under the 1971 Act before Parliament, is currently considering the harms of mephedrone and related cathinones compounds as a priority of its current review of so called 'legal highs', commissioned by the then Home Secretary earlier this year. The ACMD will report back early next year and their advice will inform our consideration of the control of mephedrone under the 1971 Act. The Government's Frank campaign provides information on mephedrone with clear advice about its known harms provided by the Department of Health and our current 'legal highs' information campaign has included warnings about mephedrone.

### Offences Against Children: Internet

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place for the sharing of information on online images of child abuse with the US authorities; and if he will make a statement. [304641]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) is the reporting point for illegal images of child sexual abuse for the UK. When an image is reported, the IWF will notify the relevant INHOPE (the International Association of Internet Hotlines) Hotline in the country concerned, including in the United States, and will also inform the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). CEOP work closely with the Virtual Global Taskforce, and with the law enforcement agencies of other countries, to tackle such sites, and to arrest those responsible for them. CEOP works closely with the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in the US.

### Passports

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a person with a complaint about a defective passport is entitled to speak to a manager at a local passport office. [305200]

**Meg Hillier:** We are always concerned to hear of any problem that our customers have and we look to provide a resolution as quickly as possible.

Customers who wish to lodge a complaint about any aspect of the services that the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) provides may do so via telephone, e-mail, letter, fax or in person at one of the seven regional passport offices. All IPS customer facing staff are fully trained in handling complaints, however, if unable to do so or if a customer specifically asks to see a manager, the public counter manager will make themselves available.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to compensate those whose passport applications have been subject to *(a)* delays and *(b)* errors in processing. [305236]

**Meg Hillier:** In accordance with current Treasury and Cabinet Office guidance, which indicates that they do not consider it is appropriate to recompense for anything other than quantifiable loss and that payments for distress and inconvenience should only be made in exceptional circumstances. It is the Identity and Passport Service's (IPS) policy to reimburse the reasonable and actual out of pocket expenses incurred by customers as a direct consequence of operational errors or omissions by its staff by means of an ex-gratia payment. It is not our normal policy to pay compensation for distress or inconvenience arising from these errors.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports issued in each of the last three years were replaced after being reported as damaged. [305239]

**Meg Hillier:** The recording of statistical data relating to faulty chips in passports began in January 2007 and, as at 31 October 2009, the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) has recorded a total of 389 passports returned by customers with suspected faulty chips. Records show that 14 of these were found not to be faulty and five chips had been damaged after dispatch by persons unknown.

### Police

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the reform of police authorities; and if he will make a statement. [305835]

**Mr. Hanson:** In the development of the White Paper: Protecting the Public: Supporting the Police to Succeed I sought views from all key policing stakeholders on the planned Government reforms of police authorities in England and Wales. I was also strongly influenced by the review carried out by my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Brightside (Mr. Blunkett).

### Police: Essex

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rate for Essex police force was in each year since 1996-97. [305832]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested is given in the table.

It should be noted that non-sanction detections which contribute to the overall detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable.

The detection rate is a ratio of crime detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. It is not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected.

*Overall detection rate for offences recorded by the police in Essex*

| *Period* | *Detection rate (percentage)* |
|---|---|
| 1996 | 29 |
| 1997 | 27 |
| 1997-98 | 28 |
| 1998-99[1] | 29 |
| 1999-2000[2] | 30 |
| 2000-01[3] | 26 |
| 2001-02 | 26 |
| 2002-03[4] | 27 |
| 2003-04 | 28 |
| 2004-05 | 27 |
| 2005-06 | 31 |
| 2006-07 | 33 |
| 2007-08 | 32 |
| 2008-09 | 35 |

[1] The percentage of crimes detected in that financial year using the expanded coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998.

[2] New instructions which clarified the rules for detecting crime were introduced on 1 April 1999.

[3] Essex police force was affected by boundary changes in April 2000.

[4] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in 2002-03. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions representatives of his Department have had with representatives of Essex Police Authority since May 2008; what issues were discussed; and if he will make a statement. [305833]

**Mr. Hanson:** Although the Home Office engages actively with all forces and authorities, especially in the development of the recent Policing White Paper, no central record is kept of discussions that have taken place between the Home Office and individual police authorities.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when representatives of his Department last visited Essex Police Authority area; what issues were discussed; and if he will make a statement. [305834]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Home Office does not keep central records of visits made by officials.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will request the Chief Constable of Essex Police to compile a report on the *(a)* number and *(b)* location of reported anti-Semitic incidents in Essex since December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [306094]

**Mr. Hanson:** This information is not held centrally, and we do not require police forces or authorities to hold statistics on these specific incidents. The statistics may be available directly from Essex police.

### Stop and Search: Children

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been stopped and searched in each year since 2001; and how many of these procedures have taken place under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. [305355]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Data on stop and search procedures reported to the Home Office do not include the age of persons searched.

### Stop and Search: Young People

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people under the age of 18 have been stopped and searched in each police force area under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year since 2000; and how many have subsequently been *(a)* arrested (i) under that Act and (ii) for another reason and *(b)* prosecuted (i) under that Act and (ii) for another reason, in each such area. [305998]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

Data on stop and search procedures reported to the Home Office do not include the age of persons searched. Additionally, the data collected do not include the number of persons who were subsequently proceeded against at court.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Politics and Government

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports the Prime Minister has received on levels of corruption in the Afghanistan government. [304147]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Corruption is endemic throughout society and state. Pervasive corruption within government and the security forces undermines the legitimacy of the government and corrodes consent. Nearly one fifth of the Afghan population believe corruption is the country's biggest problem (after insecurity, unemployment and poor economy) and Afghanistan ranks second to last on Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (before Somalia). President Karzai made a commitment to tackling corruption in his inauguration speech. We expect him to demonstrate this commitment by creating independent institutions that can prevent, detect and take action against corrupt practices in government. We will continue to offer a Multi-Agency Task Force of experts from across the Government to support the Afghan Government to tackle corruption.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-6, on Afghanistan and Pakistan, what steps have been agreed with the government of Afghanistan to ensure that all provinces and districts in Afghanistan have a governor appointed on merit, free from corruption and with clearly defined roles, skills and resources. [304878]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I have been asked to reply.

President Karzai set out his commitments in his inauguration speech of 19 November 2009. We welcome the emphasis placed on the need for governors to have integrity and professionalism, and look forward to the announcement of appointments over the next nine months.

We also welcome the Afghan Government's intention to reform sub-national governance. The reforms proposed will address various issues, including the definition of roles and responsibilities and the provision of training and resources. Once the reform proposals are agreed, the UK and its international partners will work with the Afghan Government to ensure that there are clear, time-bound targets for delivery.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-36W, on Afghanistan and Pakistan, what criteria will be used to determine whether an appointee for provincial or district governorship in Afghanistan is free from corruption; what body will be charged with making that assessment; and what agreement has been made with the government of Afghanistan in respect of consultation on such appointments. [304930]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** In his inauguration speech of 19 November 2009, President Karzai made clear his commitment to political reform and tackling corruption, including the appointment of clean and competent Ministers and Governors. The Afghan-led framework which ensures appointments are corruption-free centres on an asset registration process. This process is currently managed by the High Office of Oversight. UK support to the High Office of Oversight has thus far enabled it to register the assets of 50 per cent. of Cabinet Ministers and over 1,200 public officials. We have pressed the Afghan Government to establish strong and independent anti-corruption institutions that can report to the Afghan Parliament and public. The new institutions will have the responsibility to crack down on corruption cases.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-6W, on Afghanistan and Pakistan, what benchmarks the Government has set for the government of Afghanistan; what plans he has to review those benchmarks; and by what mechanisms progress against these benchmarks will be measured. [304931]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister clearly laid out the benchmarks in his statement to the House on 30 November 2009. We regularly discuss progress and challenges with the Afghan Government and international partners and we will continue to do so regarding the benchmarks the Prime Minister has described.

Other benchmarks had been previously agreed between the international community and the Afghan Government in the 2006 London Compact and are kept under review by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB), comprising of senior Afghan and international officials.

The London Conference will be a further opportunity to review progress against the Prime Minister's benchmarks and the areas of work President Karzai highlighted in his inauguration speech, as well as an opportunity to set out international support to help the new Afghan Government deliver.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-6, on Afghanistan and Pakistan, what mechanisms will be used to monitor the record of the Afghan government on corruption; how often reports on such monitoring work will be made; and what plans he has to inform Parliament of the outcomes of such monitoring work. [304932]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have pressed the Afghan Government to establish strong and independent anti-corruption institutions that can report to the Afghan Parliament and public. President Karzai committed to tackle corruption in his inauguration speech. We will follow closely the delivery of this commitment. Priorities should be an anti-corruption commission that reports annually to the Afghan public and Parliament, and an independent accountability board to oversee the commission with both Afghan and international membership.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-6, on Afghanistan and Pakistan, whether he plans to assess the merits of reviewing the mandate of the United Nations in Afghanistan as part of the Government's policy on stronger civilian leadership in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [304934]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) plays an essential and central role in coordinating civilian efforts in Afghanistan. We would like to see this role further reinforced and developed. Last week, the US and UK, together with many of our international security assistance force (ISAF) partners, announced a substantial uplift in the number of troops to be deployed in Afghanistan. It is important that the increasing growth, pace and effectiveness of ISAF's military efforts in Afghanistan are matched by similar improvements in the civil effort. We are working with the Government of Afghanistan, key international institutions such as the UN and NATO, and our international partners to ensure that this becomes a reality.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-6, on Afghanistan and Pakistan, whether the benchmarks for Afghanistan to meet have been agreed with the *(a)* US administration and *(b)* government of Afghanistan. [304935]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We are in close and regular contact with the Government of Afghanistan, US and our other international security assistance force allies about progress in Afghanistan, including how we best measure that progress and prioritise our collective effort. The London Conference on Afghanistan, set for 28 January 2010, offers a further opportunity to discuss progress and will be part of a sequence of events to help to reinvigorate delivery in the priority areas of security, development and governance.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what objectives he has set for the 2010 London Conference on Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [304936]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** On 28 November 2009, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced that we would host an international conference on Afghanistan in London. The one-day event, to be held on 28 January 2010, will be opened by the Prime Minister and President Karzai and chaired by the Foreign Secretary.

The main focus of the conference will be to deliver and coordinate support for the ambitious agenda set out in President Karzai's inauguration speech: increasing Afghan leadership on security issues; improving governance and reducing corruption; reintegration and reconciliation; improving economic and social development; and building closer regional relationships.

## Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 327-30W, on departmental contracts, what services were provided by Crown Agents under its contract for life support services in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [305470]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Crown Agents has been contracted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to provide life support to our embassy in Kabul since April 2008. The service includes the provision of catering, laundry services, cleaning and waste removal.

## Bangladesh

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Bangladeshi counterpart on the potential effect of sea level rises in the country. [305921]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Environmental specialists studying the effects of climate change in Bangladesh believe that as many as 30 million Bangladeshis could be affected by a one metre rise in sea level. When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Port of Spain on 28 November 2009, they discussed the importance to Bangladesh of a robust deal on climate change. This included calling for a fair, equitable and global deal at Copenhagen, particularly on adaptation and mitigation, and sufficient, predictable and additional international finance. We will continue to work closely with the Bangladesh Government and civil society to secure an equitable deal at Copenhagen this week.

## Bangladesh: Internally Displaced Persons

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of people in coastal zones of Bangladesh who may be displaced as a result of changes to the sea level in the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [305289]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Environmental specialists studying the effects of climate change in Bangladesh believe that as many as 30 million Bangladeshis could be affected by a one metre rise in sea level; a likely scenario within the next 100 years. The Government consider this estimation credible. While a sea level rise of 10 cm over the next 10 years is unlikely to provoke large-scale migration from coastal areas, increased levels of salinity in fresh water will cause considerable health and agricultural problems. Adaptation to this new environment will be crucial.

The Government remain the largest bilateral donor to Bangladesh. We led in the formation of the Multi-donor Trust Fund, a substantial fund for climate change adaptation projects, to which we have assigned £75 million over five years.

We continue to work closely with the Bangladesh Government and civil society to secure an equitable deal at Copenhagen for Bangladesh, and suitable amounts of climate finance for large-scale adaptation to the effects of climate change.

## British Council: Stratagem

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what payments the British Council has made to Stratagem in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305163]

**Chris Bryant:** The British Council has made the following payments to Stratagem in the last 12 months:

To support the delivery of a conference in Northern Ireland in September/October 2008, which brought together 100 young North Americans and Europeans—£1,470. (This covers the VAT, paid for separately to the £6,950 cost of the contract.)

Annual e-mail subscription service, which provides political updates and analysis on local political developments in Northern Ireland—£813.75.

Facilitation of Living Together International Congress in Poland in March 2009, the British Council's project on intercultural dialogue in South East Europe and the UK—£1,032.54.

I will send under separate cover copies of the contracts for your information. At this time there are no plans to place copies of these contracts in the Library of the House. The e-mail subscription service is one of Stratagem's standard off-the-shelf products to which the British Council takes out a subscription and there is no separate contract.

### British Overseas Territories: Cenotaph

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the Government has received from representatives of Overseas Territories on the laying of wreaths at the Cenotaph on their behalf. [304408]

**Chris Bryant:** We have received representations from some representatives of the overseas territories to lay wreaths at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. We have no plans at present to change the existing arrangements.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305517]

**Chris Bryant:** A Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) press officer is trained to take photographs so we do not need to employ external contractors for this work. The exception is that a photographer was hired in 2007, at a cost of £150 + VAT, to take shots of the new ministerial team. We are currently seeking to meet more of our video requirements in-house in order to save costs. The FCO had a public diplomacy contract with British Satellite News for 15 years which included filming some ministerial statements and engagements. This contract was terminated in September 2009 and it is not possible to disaggregate the cost of production of videos in which Ministers appear.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applicants for jobs in his Department have had their applications rejected on national security grounds in each year since 2001. [305473]

**Chris Bryant:** Since autumn 2008, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has rejected six applicants for employment on national security grounds, as the applicants failed to secure developed vetting (DV) clearance. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold statistics for the period prior to this date.

### EU Institutions: Fines

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was levied in fines against the UK by EU institutions in the first six months of 2009. [306060]

**Chris Bryant:** The United Kingdom has never incurred a financial penalty for failure to comply with a European Court of Justice judgment under Article 228 (ex Article 171) of the Treaty Establishing the European Community.

### Iran: Nuclear Power

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made recent representations to his Malaysian counterpart on Malaysia's policy on Iran's nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [306143]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My officials lobbied the Malaysian Government in advance of the recent International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors meeting to make clear the importance of sending a strong signal to Iran. In the event, Malaysia cast its vote against a resolution censuring Iran for its nuclear programme on 27 November 2009. Since the vote, the Malaysian Government have made a public statement saying that their vote against the resolution was not in line with government procedures and that their Permanent Representative to the IAEA has been recalled to Kuala Lumpur for consultations. My officials have spoken to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and have sent a Note Verbale recording our disappointment with the vote, but welcoming the subsequent public statement.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Israeli Government on its compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution *(a)* 478 of 1980, on Jerusalem and *(b)* 1860 of 2009, on Gaza. [304880]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We fully agree with the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 478, and do not recognise as valid under international law the Israeli "basic law" proclaiming a change in the character and status of Jerusalem. We have consistently made clear that we do not accept actions by Israel that seek to alter the status of Jerusalem and the Government's view that Israel does not have sovereignty over East Jerusalem, which remains occupied territory.

We have made frequent representations to the Israeli Government on the key aspects of UN Security Council Resolution 1860 including the need for the sustained and regular flow of goods and people through the Gaza crossings and renewed efforts towards achieving a comprehensive peace.

### Middle East: Overseas Aid

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of damage during Operation Cast Lead to properties constructed with public funding provided *(a)* directly by the UK and *(b)* by the EU. [304908]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have not made such an assessment and there would be significant obstacles to doing so accurately. Much UK and EU funding is donated in the form of contributions towards projects carried out by the UN Relief and Works Agency and the Palestinian Authority. However over 100 schools, three hospitals and five health clinics need full reconstruction or major repair. We continue to press the Israeli Government to allow the materials required for reconstruction into Gaza.

### Moldova: Politics and Government

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of the political situation in Moldova; and if he will make a statement. [306054]

**Chris Bryant:** On Monday 7 December 2009 the Moldovan Parliament failed for the second time to elect the President, when Marian Lupu (Chairman of the Democratic Party) failed to reach the minimum qualifying threshold following the opposition Communist party's boycott of the vote. This means that the Parliamentary Speaker Mihai Ghimpu (Chairman of the Liberal party) will remain Acting President.

Parliament will need to be dissolved. However, this can only occur once within a 12 month period. It was last dissolved in June 2009. As a result, dissolution will only be possible after mid-June 2010 causing elections to be held around October 2010.

With elections now firmly on the horizon, the Alliance will need to remain united in order to advance much needed economic and institutional reforms. When I met the Moldovan Deputy Foreign Minister, Natalia Gherman, in November 2009, I underlined the UK's continued support for Moldova's democratic and economic development and its European integration.

### Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the government of Sri Lanka to *(a)* release all those in internment camps and *(b)* establish a political settlement which takes into account the needs of the Tamil people. [305048]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed both these issues with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Bogollogama on 27 November 2009.

We take every available opportunity to urge the Sri Lankan Government to ensure the early and safe return to their home areas of all internally displaced persons (IDPs). In recent weeks there has been some progress on returns; unconfirmed UN figures of 7 December 2009 estimate that over 150,000 IDPs had been returned to their home areas. The announcement that IDPs would be granted freedom of movement as of 1 December 2009 is a positive step. Some IDPs have already left, and we believe the opening of the camps and granting real freedom of movement will enable the thousands still living in the camps to start to rebuild their lives. It is now imperative that humanitarian agencies are given full access to the IDPs so that they can provide them with the help they need both in the camps and in their places of return.

We have also regularly made clear our view that Sri Lanka has a unique opportunity—and duty—to work for genuine political reconciliation. We have urged the Government to resolve the underlying causes of the conflict through an inclusive political process which addresses the legitimate grievances and aspirations of all communities—Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Christmas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many Christmas trees were purchased by the Government Equalities Office in each year since its establishment; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305641]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** Since it's creation on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has not purchased any Christmas trees.

### Dalits: Discrimination

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what research the Government Equalities Office is undertaking on the level of discrimination by caste and descent against Dalit peoples resident in the UK. [305189]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Department is aware of the scoping study published last month by the Anti-Caste Discrimination Alliance and asked the Equality and Human Rights Commission to consider one of the study's recommendations for the Equality and Human Rights Commission to conduct further research.

### Departmental Operating Costs

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality for what reasons year-on-year the running costs of the Government Equalities Office have increased since its inception. [305308]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office was established as a Government Department in October 2007. Staff and administration resources transferred from the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions to form the GEO. These transfers were based upon the resources transferring and not the resources required for the establishment of a new Department with extra responsibilities.

The build up of staff and resources reflects:

(a) the cost of establishment of the Department (for example press and private offices, a correspondence team, finance and human resources teams) and

(b) extra resources allocated to the delivery of an Equality Bill and work on the Equality agenda including the Minister for Women's Priorities.

### Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many security passes her Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303958]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** Over the past 12 months the Government Equalities Office has not issued any security passes to consultants.

## TREASURY

### Agricultural Products: Israel

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many consignments of agricultural produce imported from Israel and checked by HM Revenue and Customs were identified as originating in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories in the last 12 months; and how many of those consignments were originally represented as originating in Israel. [305255]

**Mr. Timms:** A total of six consignments have been identified as originating in an Israeli settlement. All of them were claiming Israeli preferential origin.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many consignments of agricultural produce imported from Israel and Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories were checked by HM Revenue and Customs to verify their place of origin in the last 12 months; and how many of such consignments were of *(a)* avocados, *(b)* herbs, *(c)* dates, *(d)* peppers and *(e)* tahini or halva. [305256]

**Mr. Timms:** Since July 2008 HM Revenue and Customs has undertaken 49 physical examinations of fresh produce, including avocado pears, dates and herbs, imported under the EU-Israel Agreement. 10 examinations were undertaken in respect of avocados. No investigations were undertaken in respect of consignments of pepper and tahini or halva. Separate figures are not available for the number of examinations in respect of dates and herbs. Two labelling irregularities were identified for herbs.

### Child Tax Credit: Grandparents

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of grandparents eligible to claim child tax credits for grandchildren in their care; and what proportion of this group receive such credits. [305319]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not available as the survey used to estimate eligibility does not provide large enough sample sizes to accurately estimate the number of grandparents eligible to claim child tax credits for grandchildren in their care, and HMRC data does not record the nature of the relationship between the child and the child tax credit recipient where the claimant is not their parent.

### Child Trust Fund

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been allocated to child trust funds in each year since 2003; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in each of the next two years. [305332]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Information in relation to the allocated costs of Government contributions to child trust fund accounts, including forecasted costs to 2012-13, is contained in table 9 of the 2009 Statistical Report which can be viewed on HM Revenue and Customs' website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/statistical-report-2009.pdf

For years prior to 2007-08 the allocated costs were set at £240 million per full year.

### Cosmetics: Israel

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many consignments of cosmetics were imported from *(a)* Israel and *(b)* Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories in each of the last three years. [305257]

**Mr. Timms:** The term cosmetics covers a diverse range of products. Therefore the figures provided cover the most likely imports of interest—beauty and skin preparations, including skincare products and aftershave and bath preparations, deodorants and similar products.

*Israel*

| | Consignments |
|---|---|
| *Beauty and skin care preparations* | |
| 2007 | 246 |
| [illegible] | 290 |
| 2009 | 170 |
| *Aftershave and bath preparations, deodorants and similar products* | |
| 2007 | 41 |
| 2008 | 32 |
| 2009 | 47 |

Checks have not revealed any imports of the above products from Palestine. The Occupied Palestinian Territories do not have their own country of origin code. Consequently, importers can only declare Israel or Palestine as the country of origin on the Customs import declaration.

### Council Tax: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of properties which have been revalued for council tax purposes in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many such revaluations resulted in a change of council tax banding. [illegible]

**Ian Pearson:** In the last three years, the changes to council tax bands for Bexley, including increases and reductions, as a result of day-to-day work undertaken by the VOA in maintaining valuation lists, are as follows:

*Number of properties in list as at 1 April 2006—93,778*

*Number of changes (including percentage) between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007*

| | Number/percentage |
|---|---|
| Number deleted | 119 |
| Deleted as a percentage of total bands | 0.13 |
| Number increased | 103 |

*Number of changes (including percentage) between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007*

| | Number/percentage |
|---|---|
| Increased as a percentage of total bands | 0.11 |
| New dwellings | 291 |
| New as a percentage of total bands | 0.31 |
| Number decreased | 149 |
| Decreased as a percentage of total bands | 0.16 |

*Number of properties in list as at 1 April 2007—93,950*

*Number of changes (including percentage) between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008*

| | Number/percentage |
|---|---|
| Number deleted | 77 |
| Deleted as a percentage of total bands | 0.08 |
| Number increased | 176 |
| Increased as a percentage of total bands | 0.19 |
| New dwellings | 404 |
| New as a percentage of total bands | 0.43 |
| Number decreased | 220 |
| Decreased as a percentage of total bands | 0.23 |

*Number of properties in list as at 1 April 2008—94,277*

*Number of changes (including percentage) between 1 April 2008 and by 31 March 2009*

| | Number/percentage |
|---|---|
| Number deleted | 389 |
| Deleted as a percentage of total bands | 0.41 |
| Number increased | 54 |
| Increased as a percentage of total bands | 0.06 |
| New dwellings | 735 |
| New as a percentage of total bands | 0.78 |
| Number decreased | 178 |
| Decreased as a percentage of total bands | 0.19 |

## Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [illegible]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Departmental systems record all such passes issued, but do not separately identify information in the format requested, which could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost. All persons working in HM Treasury buildings are required to have a minimum level of security clearance before they are issued with a building security pass. This includes permanent passes, day passes and visitors' passes.

## Equitable Life Ex-gratia Payment Scheme Review

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Chan[illegible] of the Exchequer what level of remuneration is being provided to Sir John Chadwick for undertaking work in order to provide advice on an ex-gratia payment scheme; and how much *(a)* time Sir John spent on such work and *(b)* he was paid (i) between 17 July 2009 and 18 August 2009 and (ii) since 1 November 2009. [301508]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Sir John Chadwick is paid at the rate of £250 per hour for the performance of his services, excluding VAT. This is substantially less than judges of Sir John's standing would charge commercially.

Sir John has been contracted to oversee and lead the work of his Office, to time scales broadly equivalent to two days a week. This is being kept under review.

## EU External Trade: Israel

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Mitzpe Shalem is considered to be in Israel for the purposes of the EU-Israel Trade Agreement. [305264]

**Mr. Timms:** Mitzpe Shalem where Mitzpe is spelt with a letter 't' does not appear on the current list of Settlements locations which was transmitted by the European Commission to member states' customs authorities in September 2009. However, the settlement at Mizpe Shalem where Mizpe is spelt without a 't' is on the list.

## Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to amend the rate of alcohol duty consequent on the return of the rate of value added tax to 17.5 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [301663]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The 2008 pre-Budget report announced that the increases made to alcohol duties will be maintained when the standard rate of VAT is returned to 17.5 per cent. in January 2010 to help fiscal consolidation. The 2009 pre-Budget confirmed this announcement.

## Imports

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance HM Revenue and Customs has issued to ensure that goods or produce imported to the UK is designated according to place of production rather than location of company headquarters. [305174]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs publishes guidance across a wide range of customs matters. This includes advising UK importers of the need to check that goods imported under the EU-Israel agreement actually originate in the state of Israel. The guidance includes Customs information papers which are published on the HMRC website.

### Imports: Israel

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what means HM Revenue and Customs ensures that the labelling of produce in mixed consignments of imports containing produce from both Israel and from Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories for the purposes of customs duties is consistent with that used for supermarket tracking systems. [305194]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs undertakes the physical examination of goods imported under the EU-Israel Agreement at the time of importation to establish whether the place of production shown on packaging is the same as that in the accompanying proof of preferential origin. Such checks would only involve reference to a supermarket tracking system, where the supermarket concerned is shown as the importer on the Customs import declaration.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what mechanism HM Revenue and Customs ensures that produce identified by supermarket tracking systems as originating in Israeli settlements on the occupied Palestinian territories does not benefit from the trade preference under the EU-Israel Trade Agreement. [305254]

**Mr. Timms:** When carrying out verification checks, HM Revenue and Customs only has access to the supporting documents, systems and records which relate directly to the import declaration. This may not include access to the supermarket tracking system as checks reveal that, in most cases, a supermarket is not the actual importer of the goods.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors the Valuation Office Agency takes into account when making rating assessments for petrol filling stations; and if he will make a statement. [305980]

**Ian Pearson:** The Valuation Office Agency adopts the rental comparative method of valuation when valuing petrol filling stations for rating purposes. Valuations reflect the four main elements of a petrol filling station: the petrol sales forecourt, the forecourt shop, the car wash facilities and other sources of income from non-forecourt buildings such as workshops and showrooms and the like. The factors considered when making such a valuation include the fair maintainable throughputs and turnovers, which are derived from factors such as the location, layout of the site, and number of pumps.

### Royal Bank of Scotland

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he intends to take following the National Audit Office's conclusion that net lending to business by the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) will not meet the legally binding targets agreed between RBS and the Government in negotiating the Asset Protection Scheme. [306057]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The lending commitments are legally binding on the banks and include sanctions such as restricting access to the Credit Guarantee Scheme. If the banks fail to meet their commitments and cannot satisfactorily demonstrate that this is due to insufficient demand for lending, the Government will impose these sanctions.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many cases were handled by the Tax Credit Office in each year since 1997; [305315]

(2) what percentage of cases handled by the HM Revenue and Customs were handled by the Tax Credit Office in each year since 1997. [305316]

**Mr. Timms:** The Tax Credit Office (TCO) was set up by the former Inland Revenue in October 1999.

Detailed information about the administration of tax credits for all years can be found in the Department's reports, trust statements and the Comptroller and Auditor General's standard reports which are all available on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Statistical information on tax credits can be found at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/menu.htm

### Welfare Tax Credits: Complaints

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many complaints from members of the public the Tax Credit Office received in each year since 1997; [305317]

(2) what percentage of complaints received by HM Revenue and Customs concerned the Tax Credit Office in each year since 1997. [305318]

**Mr. Timms:** Information about the number of complaints handled by the different HMRC business areas, including tax credits, is broken down in the annexes of the departmental reports available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Complaints to the Tax Credit Office are about 40 per cent. lower in the current year then for the same period last year.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Fire Prevention

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations on measures to improve fire safety his Department has received from coroners in each of the last three years. [304157]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department has received three representations on measures to improve fire safety from coroners in the last three years. These representations were made under Rule 43 of the Coroners Rules 1984 and as amended by the Coroners (Amendment) Rules 2008.

The representations received were from:

8 March 2007 Mr. E Thomas, Coroner for Hertfordshire, after the inquests into the death of Michael Miller; Jeffrey Wornham and Natalie Close

1 July 2009 Dr. E Carlyon, Coroner for Cornwall, after the inquests into the death of Joan Harper, Peter Harper and Monica Hughes

14 July 2009 Mr. C Dorries, Coroner for South Yorkshire, after the inquest into the death of Margaret Wilson

## Fire Services

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to transfer Fire and Rescue Service operational command and control arrangements to regional level in England. [305419]

**Mr. Malik:** The responsibility for operational command and control will remain, as is now, with local Fire and Rescue Services.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what duties are performed by fire brigade control rooms; and if he will make a statement. [305420]

**Mr. Malik:** The primary duties of the fire brigade control rooms are operations such as call handling and mobilising resources. They may also provide other duties but this is for individual Fire and Rescue Services to determine.

## Fire Services: Emergency Calls

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* genuine and *(b)* bogus fire emergency calls have been received in Leeds North West in each year since 2006. [305770]

**Mr. Malik:** This information is held centrally only to Fire Authority level. The numbers of malicious false alarm calls and other emergency calls to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service are shown in the following table.

*Total emergency calls and malicious false alarms calls to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service 2006-07 to 2008-09*

| | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Malicious false alarms calls | 3,903 | 2,395 | 2,149 |
| Other emergency calls | 88,458 | 82,000 | 76,163 |
| Total emergency calls | 92,361 | 84,395 | 78,312 |

*Source:*
Data returns to Communities and Local Government

## Fire Services: Finance

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to date of the FiReControl project in the *(a)* South West, *(b)* South East, *(c)* East of England, *(d)* West Midlands, *(e)* East Midlands, *(f)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(g)* North West and *(h)* North East regions. [303722]

**Mr. Malik:** Estimated costs to date of the FiReControl Project in each of the regions are set out in the following table:

| *Region* | *Total by region (£)* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* South West | 13,300,000 |
| *(b)* South East | 9,300,000 |
| *(c)* East of England | 6,400,000 |
| *(d)* West Midlands | 9,700,000 |
| *(e)* East Midlands | 11,600,000 |
| *(f)* Yorkshire and the Humber | 5,200,000 |
| *(g)* North West | 7,400,000 |
| *(h)* North East | 10,300,000 |
| Total | 73,200,000 |

This includes costs associated with the Regional Control Centre buildings up to end of November 2009. It also includes funding provided to Fire and Rescue Authorities and local authority controlled companies for local and regional implementation activity up to the end of financial year 2009-10.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department has allocated for the purposes of meeting new burden costs associated with the implementation of regional fire control centres since 2002; and for what activities such funding has been allocated. [305401]

**Mr. Malik** *[holding answer 9 December 2009]:* We are committed to meeting all the upfront costs of implementing the regional control centre network. A total of £68,753,000 has been provided to fire and rescue authorities for implementation of regional control centres. This funding has been allocated in recognition of the costs of all local and regional implementation activities including project management and coordination, transition activities such as data capture and migration and preparation for new ways of working. This includes funding to cover regional control centre staffing and accommodation.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of the report by Mott McDonald on the *(a)* Future of Fire Service Control Rooms and Communications in England and Wales, April 2000 and *(b)* Future of Fire and Rescue Service Control Rooms in England and Wales 2003; what the cost, including value added tax has been of all consultants' fees in respect of the FiReControl project; what his most recent estimate is of his Department's total expenditure on such fees in respect of that project; and when he expects all contracts for consultancy services in respect of that project to have ended. [305402]

**Mr. Malik** *[holding answer 9 December 2009]:* The Department does not hold individual figures for the reports referred to at *(a)* and *(b)*.

Estimated fees reflecting support provided in a range of specialist areas such as procurement, contract management, building services and system development, up to end of October 2009 is £43 million. Current estimates of remaining fees up to the end of 2012 are around £6.2 million. Specialist support is expected to be needed up to various different points in the project and some until the end of the project.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on bonuses paid to officials of his Department who have worked on the FireControl Project team in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [305403]

**Mr. Malik** *[holding answer 9 December 2009]:* Bonuses paid to officials who have worked on the FiReControl Project team in the last three years are

2006-07: £733.00

2007-08: £8,600.00

2008-09:£9,505.00

These payments have been made in line with the department's pay and reward policy.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department allocated to each fire authority in each region for the purposes of meeting *(a)* new burdens and *(b)* other costs in respect of the FiReControl Project in each year since 2002. [305404]

**Mr. Malik** *[holding answer 9 December 2009]:* All local and regional costs associated with the implementation of FiReControl are met under the New Burdens principle. No funding was provided prior to financial year 2005-06. The following table indicates funding provided to meet local costs:

*Transition funding*

| | *FY05-06* | *FY06-07* | *FY07-08* | *FY08-09* | *FY09-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon Fire Authority | 31,620 | 52,986 | 56,041 | 57,554 | 59,108 |
| Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority | 11,616 | 76,984 | 111,904 | 137,973 | 115,000 |
| Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority | 12,002 | 95,539 | 135,766 | 130,338 | 115,000 |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority | 11,170 | 80,367 | 118,157 | 183,330 | 115,000 |
| Cheshire Fire Authority | 15,230 | 93,692 | 177,393 | 179,326 | 117,999 |
| Cleveland Fire Authority | 32,153 | 189,710 | 272,038 | 205,473 | 115,000 |
| Cornwall County Council | 28,048 | 52,986 | 56,041 | 57,554 | 59,108 |
| County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority | 30,153 | 142,711 | 293,546 | 193,464 | 115,000 |
| Cumbria County Council | 12,998 | 85,964 | 128,299 | 208,472 | 131,599 |
| Derbyshire Fire Authority | 27,997 | 158,097 | 613,165 | 196,803 | 158,429 |
| Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority | 58,998 | 777,606 | 56,041 | 1,224,317 | 715,687 |
| Dorset Fire Authority | 29,611 | 52,986 | 56,041 | 57,554 | 59,108 |
| East Sussex Fire Authority | 11,555 | 92,743 | 143,631 | 145,257 | 120,836 |
| Essex Fire Authority | 15,471 | 92,743 | 116,762 | 298,542 | 232,824 |
| Gloucestershire County Council | 29,834 | 52,986 | 56,041 | 57,554 | 59,108 |
| Greater London Authority (GLA) | 64,654 | 234,150 | 659,062 | 876,173 | 1,551,497 |
| Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority | 25,498 | 118,093 | 283,346 | 299,339 | 204,279 |
| Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority | 14,457 | 112,472 | 320,891 | 221,444 | 243,771 |
| Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority | 11,892 | 148,228 | 319,276 | 122,805 | 115,000 |
| Hertfordshire County Council | 11,839 | 82,413 | 117,039 | 183,228 | 137,428 |
| Humberside Fire Authority | 13,904 | 83,956 | 123,023 | 115,000 | 115,000 |
| Isle of Wight County Council | 8,653 | 87,620 | 123,409 | 115,000 | 115,000 |
| Kent and Medway Towns Fire Authority | 15,573 | 115,410 | 296,981 | 355,901 | 190,302 |
| Lancashire Combined Fire Authority | 19,025 | 99,611 | 224,957 | 254,841 | 153,871 |
| Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority | 28,220 | 200,111 | 430,189 | 124,926 | 115,000 |
| Lincolnshire County Council | 26,657 | 148,069 | 325,606 | 204,480 | 129,681 |
| Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority | 21,257 | 103,780 | 203,857 | 213,005 | 139,998 |
| Norfolk County Council | 12,063 | 80,402 | 114,579 | 132,616 | 129,578 |
| North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority | 12,341 | 84,736 | 124,080 | 131,379 | 115,000 |
| Northamptonshire County Council | 26,211 | 144,838 | 209,850 | 151,421 | 119,225 |
| Northumberland County Council | 28,814 | 131,634 | 248,152 | 190,027 | 115,000 |
| Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority | 27,550 | 159,421 | 525,224 | 182,492 | 121,750 |
| Oxfordshire County Council | 9,993 | 94,284 | 143,809 | 144,164 | 115,000 |
| Royal Berkshire Fire Authority | 12,448 | 97,139 | 157,405 | 117,262 | 115,000 |
| Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority | 11,000 | 137,554 | 209,128 | 143,216 | 115,000 |
| South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority | 16,136 | 88,618 | 170,161 | 183,101 | 119,050 |
| Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Fire Authority | 13,678 | 161,277 | 331,031 | 158,803 | 115,000 |
| Suffolk County Council | 11,616 | 79,425 | 115,043 | 213,955 | 134,503 |
| Surrey County Council | 11,555 | 104,085 | 143,551 | 133,302 | 116,407 |
| Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority | 33,948 | 160,944 | 388,365 | 240,983 | 133,871 |
| Warwickshire County Council | 10,553 | 138,902 | 256,054 | 142,717 | 115,000 |
| West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority | 9,965 | 221,473 | 484,746 | 370,543 | 229,542 |
| West Sussex County Council | 12,002 | 98,583 | 165,744 | 153,802 | 128,443 |
| West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority | 18,815 | 104,122 | 315,406 | 164,911 | 115,000 |
| Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority | 28,718 | 52,986 | 56,041 | 57,554 | 59,108 |

The following table indicates funding provided to meet regional costs:

*Regional funding (paid to a nominated lead authority)*

| | *FY05-06* | *FY06-07* | *FY07-08* | *FY08-09* | *FY09-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 155,106 | 135,832 | 1,694,415 | 2,698,027 | 2,557,832 |
| East of England | 144,327 | 135,832 | 216,551 | 591,501 | 1,252,466 |
| North East | 152,271 | 135,832 | 921,379 | 2,739,983 | 2,474,220 |
| North West | 150,143 | 135,832 | 261,301 | 1,650,216 | 2,298,807 |
| South East | 154,394 | 135,832 | 216,551 | 1,308,297 | 1,278,760 |
| South West | 166,737 | 135,832 | 256,551 | 1,891,806 | 1,749,498 |
| West Midlands | 142,199 | 135,832 | 301,051 | 2,160,885 | 2,030,057 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 140,215 | 135,832 | 216,551 | 367,693 | 1,187,080 |

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* staffing, including civil servants, temporary and agency staff, *(b)* secondment and *(c)* travel costs his Department had incurred in respect of the national FiReControl project team on the latest date for which figures are available; and what his most recent estimate is of such costs on completion of the project. [305405]

**Mr. Malik** *[holding answer 9 December 2009]*: The FiReControl project latest figures and recent estimate of the cost of the completion of the project is:

*£ million*

| | *Costs to November 2009* | *December 2009 to FY 2013* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Civil servant/agency/temporary | 24.2 | 14.3 | 38.5 |
| *(b)* Secondment | 7 | 3.3 | 10.3 |
| *(c)* Travel and subsistence | 1.5 | 4.8 | 6.3 |
| Total | 32.7 | 22.4 | 55.1 |

## Fire Services: Manpower

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff have been recruited to the regional fire control centre in *(a)* the South West, *(b)* the South East, *(c)* the East of England, *(d)* the East Midlands, *(e)* the West Midlands, *(f)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(g)* the North West and *(h)* the North East. [303909]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department provides funding for each Local Authority Control Company (LACC) for three defined staff roles: Regional Control Centre Director (RCCD), Senior Operations Manager (SOM) and Service Support Manager (SSM). There are eight RCCDs in post, seven SOMs and seven SSMs (or their equivalents). The Department also provides funding for LACCs to procure professional advice and it is at the discretion of the LACCs how this is spent.

| *Regional FiReControl Centre* | *RCCD* | *SOM* | *SSM* |
|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| South West | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| North East | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| West Midlands | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| South East | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| North West | Yes | Yes | No |
| East of England | Yes | No | Yes |

## Fire Services: Operating Costs

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost has been of establishing and operating each regional fire control room to date; and what the estimated monthly cost of operating each regional fire control room is expected to be over the next 12 months. [305843]

**Mr. Malik:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1040-41W, and the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) today (PQ 305843).

## Housing: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing project developments have been approved in areas of outstanding natural beauty *(a)* in the first instance by local council planning authorities and *(b)* on appeal in each of the last three years; how many houses were involved in each project; and if he will make a statement. [306155]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information is not held centrally on local authority planning permissions for housing in areas of outstanding beauty. The Planning Inspectorate does hold information on appeals but details of whether or not they were in areas of outstanding natural beauty could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Housing: Fire Prevention

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review the fire safety provisions and regulations relating to *(a)* multi-storey hostel, *(b)* student and *(c)* key worker housing for the purpose of making further fire safety provisions; and if he will require the owners of such accommodation to conduct their own fire safety checks. [[illegible]]

**Mr. Malik** *[holding answer 9 December 2009]*: The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 came into effect in October 2006. In March 2009, my Department published an initial evaluation of the effectiveness of the order which indicated the legislation was bedding in well. We therefore have no plans, at present, to review it.

The Fire Safety order places the responsibility for fire safety in all non-domestic premises, including hostels and halls of residence, in England and Wales, with a 'responsible person' for the premises—usually the employer, owner or occupier. It requires the responsible person for the premises to carry out a fire safety risk assessment and to put in place appropriate fire safety measures to adequately protect lives in the event of a fire.

In other types of multi-occupied residential premises, including blocks of flats and houses in multiple occupation, the order applies to the common parts of the premises, rather than the individual domestic units themselves. In these premises, the 'responsible person' is likely to be the landlord.

### Housing: Rural Areas

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in rural areas have been demolished in each year since 1997. [306013]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Non-domestic Rates: Sports

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities are planning to *(a)* remove and *(b)* reduce from 2009-10 levels the discretionary rate relief available to sports clubs in 2010-11. [305792]

**Barbara Follett:** Discretionary rate relief is solely a matter for the local authority. Communities and Local Government does not collect data on local authorities' plans with regard to rate relief.

### Ordnance Survey

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions his Department has had with the independent mapping sector on the effect on that sector of its proposals for Ordnance Survey in drafting its consultation on Re-mapping the future for Ordnance Survey. [305126]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** In developing policy proposals for Ordnance Survey, officials in Shareholder Executive have had a number of meetings and conversations with individuals, companies and organisations from the private sector geographic information market. The purpose of these was to understand better the external environment in which Ordnance Survey operates. Independent consultants working for Shareholder Executive have also had similar meetings. The purpose of the forthcoming consultation is to hear further feedback on the policy proposals from all interested parties.

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account he takes in his formulation of policy on the mapping sector of the effect on the independent mapping sector of his Department's support for the activities of Ordnance Survey. [305127]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Government recognise that Ordnance Survey operates in a commercial marketplace and any change must be implemented carefully to reflect this. The purpose of the forthcoming consultation is to hear further feedback on the policy proposals from all interested parties, including the independent mapping sector.

### Ordnance Survey: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments Ordnance Survey has made to Mandate Communications/AS Biss in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [302216]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Mandate Communications provides Ordnance Survey with consultancy and advice on Corporate Communications and Public Affairs.

Payments made by Ordnance Survey to Mandate Communications for these services for the 12 months up to the 31 October 2009 total £ 53,900 inclusive of VAT.

I am unable to place a copy of Ordnance Survey's contract with Mandate Communications in the Library of the House due to its content being commercially confidential.

### Right to Buy Scheme: Rural Areas

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many right to buy sales there were in rural areas in each year since 1997; what the average discount available to buyers was; and what the average discount was as a percentage of the value of such property. [306012]

**John Healey:** The following table shows the number of local authority right to buy homes sold in rural areas, the average discount and market value of these sales, and the discount as a proportion of the average market value, in each year since 1997-98:

*Local authority right to buy sales in rural areas*

| | Number | Average discount (£) | Average market value (£) | Discount as a percentage of value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 12,820 | | | |
| 1998-99 | 11,420 | 21,000 | 43,000 | 49 |
| 1999-2000 | 15,250 | 22,000 | 47,000 | 47 |
| 2000-01 | 12,840 | 22,000 | 49,000 | 45 |
| 2001-02 | 12,450 | 22,000 | 50,000 | 43 |
| 2002-03 | 14,590 | 23,000 | 57,000 | 41 |
| 2003-04 | 13,950 | 23,000 | 60,000 | 37 |
| 2004-05 | 8,990 | 22,000 | 63,000 | 35 |
| 2005-06 | 5,190 | 24,000 | 77,000 | 32 |
| 2006-07 | 3,280 | 25,000 | 88,000 | 29 |
| 2007-08 | 2,000 | 26,000 | 98,000 | 27 |
| 2008-09 | 420 | 27,000 | 101,000 | 26 |

These figures reflect the sales of local authority properties through the right to buy scheme in the 178 local authorities defined as rural by the Defra rural definition (2004).

The figures are from quarterly P1B returns from local authorities to CLG. Number of sales and financial data from 2005-06 onwards include imputation for a small number of missing returns. Prior to this, the figures on average discounts, average market values, and discount as a percentage of market value in rural areas are based on the reported figures, and do not include imputation for missing returns. Financial details on right to buy sales are not available prior to 1998-99.

Right to buy and preserved right to buy sales can also be made by registered social landlords (RSLs). Data on RSL RTB sales are collected by the Tenant Services Authority (TSA), but these figures are not available by the spatial level required to provide estimates of RTB sales in rural areas. Typically LA sales make up around 80 per cent. of total RTB sales in England.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Cinemas: Closures

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cinemas have closed in *(a)* England and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire since 1 January 2008. [303714]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of cinemas which have closed in (a) England and (b) North East Cambridgeshire since 1 January 2008 (303714).

ONS does not have any statistics on the number of cinemas. Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk. The table below contains the latest statistics available on business deaths of cinema businesses for England and the constituency of North East Cambridgeshire. All counts are based on enterprises and not local units (i.e. sites). Where a local unit closes but the enterprise continues to trade at other sites, a death will not be recorded in this data.

*Counts of deaths of enterprises for 2008*

| | | England | North East Cambridgeshire |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5914 | Motion picture projection activities | 25 | 0 |

### Death

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average age of mortality was *(a)* in 1996 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [304530]

**Ms Butler:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average age of mortality was (a) in 1996 and (b) at the latest date for which figures are available. (304530)

The average (mean) age at death in England and Wales was (a) 75 years in 1996 and (b) 77 years in 2008 (the latest year available).[1,2]

[1] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[2] Figures are based on deaths registered in each calendar year.

### Departmental Energy

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the energy *(a)* rating and *(b)* band of each building occupied by her Department and its agency was in each of the last three years; [302939]

(2) what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by her Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [305969]

**Angela E. Smith:** OGC publish central Government Departments' Display Energy Certificate (DEC) operational ratings on a building by building level twice a year. The most recent data, published on 31 July 2009, contains DEC data up to and including 28 February. Data relating to the month ending 30 September will be published on 18 December. More information on this can be found on the appropriate website

www.ogc.gov.uk/sustainability_programme_progress

The table OGC is publishing will also include DEC reference numbers for each building, which can be used to view each building's advisory report on the following website:

https://www.ndepcregister.com/home.html

The answer is also included in the tables:

*2007-08*

| Building | Rating | Score |
|---|---|---|
| 9 Whitehall | E | 118 |
| 22 Whitehall | D | 87 |
| 26 Whitehall | E | 112 |
| 36 Whitehall | D | 88 |
| 70 Whitehall | E | 122 |
| 35 Great Smith Street | F | 137 |
| 67 Tufton Street | E | 120 |
| Admiralty Arch | E | 110 |
| Admiralty House | E | 110 |
| Downing Street | D | 76 |
| Central Office of Information | G | 206 |
| Emergency Planning College (Main) | C | 74 |
| Emergency Planning College (Accommodation Block) | C | 67 |

| Building | Rating | Score |
|---|---|---|
| | *2008-09* | |
| 9 Whitehall | E | 125 |
| 22 Whitehall | E | 118 |
| 26 Whitehall | E | 121 |
| 36 Whitehall | D | 84 |
| 70 Whitehall | E | 111 |
| 35 Great Smith Street | F | 133 |
| 67 Tufton Street | G | 190 |
| Admiralty Arch | E | 119 |
| Admiralty House | F | 135 |
| Downing Street | E | 101 |
| Central Office of Information | G | 223 |
| Emergency Planning College (Main) | D | 83 |
| Emergency Planning College (Accommodation Block) | C | 65 |

There are a number of factors that account for the increase in DEC ratings to the Cabinet Office buildings. The most significant factor being that currently many staff are working longer hours and at weekends. The increased intensity of use is not considered when evaluating DECs.

The Cabinet Office central London estate has applied and been accepted for a grant of £681,000.00 from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Low Carbon Technology Scheme to undertake a number of carbon saving initiatives.

### Drinking Water

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the policy is of *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies on the provision of bottled water for official meetings. [305235]

**Angela E. Smith:** The policy for the Cabinet Office is to use tap water for official meetings.

### Employment Schemes

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many people are participating in each Government-supported training scheme and employment programme classified as employment for the purpose of the monthly labour market statistics; [304383]

(2) what schemes are classified as Government-supported training and employment programmes for the purpose of the monthly labour market statistics. [304384]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people are participating in each Government-supported training scheme and employment programme classified as employment for the purpose of the monthly labour market statistics and what schemes are classified as Government-supported training scheme and employment programmes for the purpose of the monthly labour market statistics. (304383, 304384)

The estimate of the total number of people in employment who are participating in Government-supported training schemes and employment programmes are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The current Government Supported training schemes and employment programmes specifically identified by the LFS comprise: Work-based Learning for Young People (those aged 16-25 in Great Britain); Work-based Learning for Adults/Training for Work (Great Britain only); Job Skills and Worktrack (Northern Ireland only); and Entry to Employment.

Some variants of the New Deal: working for the Voluntary Sector or an Environmental Task Force; Basic Employment Training (BET) and Education and Training Opportunities (ETO) are also included.

Estimates of the numbers participating in each scheme and programme are considered too unreliable for practical purposes due to the small sample sizes involved and therefore cannot be provided. However, the latest total figure published in the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin for the period July to September 2009 is 107,000.

### Food Strategy Task Force

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the names are of each member of her Department's Food Strategy Task Force group on *(a)* vision and strategy, *(b)* joint research strategy, *(c)* healthier food mark, *(d)* integrated consumer advice, *(e)* global foods market and *(f)* food communications and campaigns; in which Government department or agency each group member works; and if she will make a statement. [304267]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Food Strategy Task Force was established by the Cabinet Office in July 2008, to oversee the delivery of activities identified in the Food Matters cross-Governmental strategy on food. It was comprised of civil servants from Cabinet Office, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Department for Health, the Chief Scientific Adviser, the Department for International Development, the Treasury, the Food Standards Agency, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Department for Energy and Climate Change, and the Devolved Administrations. Progress of this work was set out in the "Food Matters One Year On" report which was published in August 2009. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House. Following completion of most of the agreed actions, the Food Strategy Task Force was wound up and responsibility for ongoing cross-Governmental co-ordination of food policy was transferred to the Department for the Environment, Food and [illegible] Affairs.

Some of the sub-committees established to support the Food Strategy Task Force continue to meet, where their work is not yet concluded. They have a wide-ranging membership from across Whitehall and outside. The exact officials who attend each meeting are not necessarily constant; rather Departments and organisations are represented by the official they feel most appropriate. Departments and organisations represented across these groups include those listed, representatives from local administrations and services and representatives from various research councils, among others.

### Lone Parents: Employment

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents were in work in *(a)* 1998 and *(b)* 2005; and how many lone parents were in work in each local authority area in the North West on the most recent date for which figures are available. [304677]

**Ms Butler:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many lone parents were in work in (a) 1998 and (b) 2005; and how many lone parents were in work in each local authority area in the North West on the most recent date for which figures are available. (304677)

The information requested is given in the tables attached. The figures in table 1 are the number of lone parents in employment in the UK. These estimates come from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) household datasets and are available for the three month period ending in June of each year requested.

Information at local authority level comes from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. Table 2 shows the number of lone parents and confidence intervals for each local authority within the North West for January to December 2008.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS and APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. The confidence intervals provided in table 2 give an indication as to the accuracy of the estimates, and how much they could vary if taken from a different sample. These estimates are such that there is 95 per cent certainty that from all samples possible they will lie within the lower and upper bounds.

*Table 1: Number of working-age[1] lone parents with dependent children[2] in employment, April to June 1998 and 2005, United Kingdom*

| *April to June each year* | *Level (thousand)* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 778 |
| 2005 | 1,023 |

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.

[2] Children under 16 and those aged 16-18 who have never married and are in full-time education.

*Source:*

LFS household datasets

*Table 2: Number of working-age[1] lone parents with dependent children[2] in employment with 95% confidence intervals[3] by each local authority in the North West region, January to December 2008*

| | | | *Thousand* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Level* | *Lower CI* | *Upper CI* |
| United Kingdom | 1,070 | 1,030 | 1,111 |
| North West | 129 | 119 | 139 |
| Bolton | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Bury | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| Manchester | 9 | 7 | 12 |
| Oldham | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Rochdale | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| Salford | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| Stockport | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| Tameside | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| Trafford | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Wigan | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| Knowsley | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| Liverpool | 9 | 6 | 12 |
| St. Helens | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Sefton | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| Wirral | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| Halton | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Warrington | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Blackpool | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Chester | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Congleton | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Crewe and Nantwich | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Ellesmere Port and Neston | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Macclesfield | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Vale Royal | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Allerdale | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Barrow-in-Furness | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Carlisle | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Copeland | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Eden | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| South Lakeland | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Burnley | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Chorley | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Fylde | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Hyndburn | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Lancaster | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Pendle | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Preston | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Ribble Valley | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Rossendale | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| South Ribble | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| West Lancashire | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Wyre | 2 | 1 | 4 |

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.

[2] Children under 16 and those aged 16-18 who have never married and are in full-time education.

[3] 95 per cent. certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.

[4] Sample size too small to provide an estimate.

*Source:*

APS household datasets

## Retail Trade: Closures

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many high street shops have closed in *(a)* England and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire since 1 January 2008. [303715]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of high street shops which have closed in (a) England and (b) North East Cambridgeshire since 1 January 2008 (303715).

ONS does not have statistics on the number of high street shops. Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk. The table below contains the latest statistics available on business deaths of retail businesses for England and the constituency of North East Cambridgeshire. All counts are based on enterprises and not local units (i.e. sites). Where a local unit closes but the enterprise continues to trade at other sites, a death will not be recorded in this data.

*Count of deaths of enterprises for 2008—Retail by England and North East Cambridgeshire constituency*

| | | *England* | *North East Cambridgeshire* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Retail | 20,765 | 40 |
| 471 | Retail sale in non-specialised stores | 4,050 | 10 |
| 472 | Retail sale of food; beverages and tobacco in specialised stores | 3,190 | 5 |
| 473 | Retail sale of automotive fuel in specialised stores | 425 | 0 |
| 474 | Retail sale of information and communication equipment in specialised stores | 570 | 0 |
| 475 | Retail sale of other household equipment in specialised stores | 2,430 | 5 |

*Count of deaths of enterprises for 2008 — Retail by England and North East Cambridgeshire constituency*

| | | England | North East Cambridgeshire |
|---|---|---|---|
| 476 | Retail sale of cultural and recreation goods in specialised stores | 990 | 0 |
| 477 | Retail sale of other goods in specialised stores | 6,680 | 15 |
| 478 | Retail sale via stalls and markets | 250 | 0 |
| 479 | Retail trade not in stores; stalls or markets | 2,180 | 5 |

### Third Sector: Finance

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Office of the Third Sector originally allocated in its budget to provide grants and funding for the voluntary and community sector for the 2009-10 financial year; how much of this has so far been allocated; and how much remains for the rest of the financial year. [301962]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) grant allocations for 2009-10 are set out in the Cabinet Office Main Estimates and updated in the Winter Supplementary and Spring Supplementary Estimates. Expenditure on grants for the third sector will be set out in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts, expected to be published before the summer recess.

All OTS funds are allocated to programmes set out in 'The future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration: final report' and for 2009-10 only in, 'Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises'.

### Unemployment: Graduates

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of graduates were unemployed six months after obtaining their degree in each year since 1997. [304164]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of graduates were unemployed six months after obtaining their degree in each year since 1997. (304164)

Estimates for unemployment are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The economic status of graduates six months after obtaining their degree is not recorded in the LFS. However, estimates for unemployed graduates who have gained a degree in the last twelve months are available on an annual basis from quarter 2 2005.

The information provided in the attached table shows the unemployment level of those who gained a degree in the last twelve months, the proportion who are unemployed and their unemployment rate. The unemployment rate is the number of graduates who are unemployed divided by the number of graduates who are economically active (in employment or unemployed), in accordance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) convention.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the estimates from Q3 2006 are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

*Unemployment level, rate and proportion of people who had gained a degree or equivalent in the previous 12 months, Quarter 2 each year, 2005-09, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

| | | *Thousand and per cent* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Level*[1] | *Rate* | *Proportion*[2] |
| 2005 | 23,752 | 5.8 | 4.8 |
| 2006 | 42,207 | 8.6 | 7.4 |
| 2007 | 33,097 | 6.3 | 5.5 |
| 2008 | 38,615 | 7.1 | 6.1 |
| 2009 | ***65,360 | 11.4 | 9.4 |

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV — for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent, we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness*

* $0 \le CV < 5$ Estimates are considered precise

** $5 \le CV < 10$ Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** $10 \le CV < 20$ Estimates are considered acceptable

**** $CV \ge 20$ Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

[2] The number of people who are unemployed divided by the total population.

*Notes:*

1. The number of people who are unemployed divided by the number of people who are economically active.
2. It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites, etc.).

*Source:*

Labour Force Survey

### Unemployment: Young People

**Damian Green:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* numerical and *(b)* percentage change in youth unemployment in Ashford constituency was in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [304922]

**Ms Butler:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) numerical and (b) percentage change in youth unemployment in Ashford Constituency was in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available (304922).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of unemployment for the requested age range and area are not available.

As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the numerical change and the percentage change in the number of persons aged

18 to 24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the Ashford constituency, for the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Table 1. Change and percentage change in the number of persons aged 18-24 claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Ashford parliamentary constituency between October 2008 and October 2009*

| *October each year* | *Number/percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2008 | 300 |
| 2009 | 625 |
| Change | 325 |
| Percentage change | 108 |

*Note:*
Count data rounded to the nearest 5.
*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices: Finance

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will issue a letter of intent to repay capped funds withheld by the Learning and Skills Council to the training providers of apprenticeships for those aged 19 years or more. [304263]

**Kevin Brennan:** We have no plans to issue any such letters. Funding of Apprenticeships is the responsibility of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The LSC contracts with FE colleges and training organisations to deliver training places funded up to a maximum contract value. In March 2009, providers were advised in writing by the LSC not to exceed or to further exceed Apprenticeship contract values for adults. Recruitment of new apprentices could continue up to maximum contract values and the LSC has committed to funding the training of apprentices who had already started on their programme.

The LSC has a clear responsibility to manage its finances within agreed budgets and made it clear to providers that any further commitments above their agreed maximum contract values would not be funded. However the LSC has sought to ensure, through performance management actions, that funding is moved to the highest performing providers. Where possible, for 19-24 provision this has resulted in increases to agreed contract levels, but as demand has been so high for those aged over 25 the LSC has had to continue to take actions to manage demand to remain within the overall funding limits it has available.

### Business: Closures

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized businesses have closed in *(a)* England and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire since 1 January 2008. [304578]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small and medium-sized businesses have closed in (a) England and (b) North East Cambridgeshire since 1 January 2008. (304578)

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk. The table below contains the latest statistics available on business deaths for England and the constituency of North East Cambridgeshire.

*Counts of deaths of enterprises in 2008 by employment size band*

| | *0-49* | *50-249* |
|---|---|---|
| England | 192,465 | 445 |
| North East Cambridgeshire (parliamentary constituency) | 375 | 0 |

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many restaurants and cafés have closed in *(a)* England and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire since 1 January 2008. [304579]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many restaurants and cafes have closed in (a) England and (b) North East Cambridgeshire since 1 January 2008. (304579)

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk. The table below contains the latest statistics available on business deaths for England and the constituency of North East Cambridgeshire. All counts are based on enterprises and not local units (i.e. sites). Where a local unit closes but the enterprise continues to trade at other sites, a death will not be recorded in this data.

*Counts of deaths of enterprises for 2008*

*Restaurants and cafes by England and North East Cambridgeshire constituency*

| *England* | *North East Cambridgeshire* |
|---|---|
| 4,985 | 5 |

*Note:*
To avoid disclosure figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

### Christmas

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [305720]

**Mr. McFadden:** This Department has spent £1,144 in 2009 on the purchase and installation of decorated Christmas trees for the reception areas in three of its buildings in central London and Sheffield.

### Cybercrime

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to require utility companies which operate within his Department's remit to put in place resilience measures sufficient to prevent cyber-attacks rendering their services temporarily ineffective. [303801]

**Ian Lucas:** BIS leads on policy for critical infrastructure in the communications sector, which encompasses the postal and telecommunications sectors.

BIS maintains close working links with the telecoms sector on resilience, primarily through the EC-RRG (Electronic Communications Resilience and Response Group) which is industry-led but with Government and regulator representation. The aim of this group is to enhance the resilience of UK telecommunications systems to all types of hazard or threat, including cyber attacks. Part of the work of this group is to carry out exercises responding to emergencies, in order to ensure any recovery can take place as soon as possible. Additionally, CPNI (the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure) facilitates the Network Security Information Exchange, a forum for telecoms industry providers to share information and good practice specific to digital security.

The Digital Economy Bill also proposes measures to enhance investment in telecoms infrastructure and overall resilience (as part of a report on the overall health of the telecoms system in the UK). These measures will involve sharing information on resilience matters with Ofcom, who will then provide a report to the Secretary of State on the ability of the UK telecoms system to withstand shocks.

BIS also works closely with Royal Mail on resilience issues and ensures that the company liaises with the appropriate Government agencies (including CPNI) for advice on proportionate measures to protect postal operations from threats and hazards, including risks associated with cyber attacks, and to maintain business continuity.

## Departmental Assets

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [300194]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government have stated their intention to realise £16 billion in asset disposals over the period 2011-14 and will publish further details of opportunities to commercialise business assets and property in the coming weeks.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) currently has planned asset disposals of £9 million in 2009-10 and £21 million 2010-11.

## Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what efficiency savings projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300934]

**Mr. McFadden:** BIS has a significant Value for Money Programme (VfM) for CSR07, with a challenging three year set of targets of £732 million (2008-09), £1,113 million (2009-10) and £2,090 million (2010-11).

Most of the savings are due to be delivered by BIS partner organisations and examples include:

> the further education sector savings of £29 million for 2008-09 through the modernisation of the further education estate and more efficient procurement.
>
> Research Council savings of £168 million for 2008-09 include a reduction in the proportion of expenditure on administration, increasing the efficiency of Research Council institutes, growing co-funding of research and post graduate training and re-prioritising expenditure.

The target for 2008-09 has been exceeded, and we are forecasting the same for 2009-10. Further details of the VfM programme are contained in the BIS autumn performance report, published on 8 December:

> http://www.berr.gov.uk/aboutus/corporate/performance/service-standards/page24986.html

BIS has a change management programme to drive out the further efficiency savings and improvements in service levels required over the coming years. This programme covers all the strands in the Operational Efficiency, Public Value and Service Transformation Programmes. The focus is on improving workforce planning, sharing common delivery platforms and channels, and making better use of existing infrastructure. This will contribute to the government-wide £9 billion which will be delivered in the next spending period.

I have approached the chief executives of the Department's agencies and they will response to the hon. Member directly.

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 9 December 2009:*

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question, what efficiency savings projects (a) his Department and (b) its agencies put in place, under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement.

The answer is nil return from The Insolvency Service.

*Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 27 November 2009:*

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 18 November 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office is a Trading Fund and as such any savings it makes do not contribute to the Department's budgets. Accordingly, no formal projects under the Operational Efficiency Programme have been launched. The Office is, however, continually looking to improve its efficiency and has just launched two Value for Money Reviews which will identify further savings.

*Letter from Sarah Glasspool, dated 30 November 2009:*

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 18 November 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The National Measurement Office has not been asked to put in place any project under the Operational Efficiency Programme due to the small size of the Agency.

The Agency has however made a number of efficiency savings for the Department in recent years, not least as a result of the transfer of the National Measurement Unit to the Agency on the 1 April 2009. The transfer increased the staff of the Agency, but resulted in the reduction in back office posts overall. It also enabled other Agency back office resources and accommodation to be used for a larger range of services.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 9 December 2009:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 18 November 2009, UIN 300934, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

As a trading fund Companies House activities are funded from the fees parliament sets for its services and is not directly part of the CSR funding process. Companies House is committed to improving efficiency and has had a public target for efficiency improvement for many years. Our current target is to achieve a 15% reduction in operating costs per company from 2008/9 to 2010/11. In 2008/9 we achieved an 8.4% reduction through a range of activities including increasing the channel shift from paper transactions to electronic, increasing process efficiency, better procurement and cost control.

## Departmental Legal Costs

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure his Department and its agencies have incurred on external legal advice and representation in each year since his Department was established; and for what purposes such services have been commissioned. [300581]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created by Machinery of Government changes in June. From 1 June to 23 November, BIS spent £2.6 million on external legal advice and representation. The information about the purposes for which the legal services have been commissioned is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Chief executives of BIS agencies and NDPBs will respond directly to the hon. Member.

I have approached the chief executives of the Department's agencies and they will response to you directly.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 9 December 2009:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 18 November 2009, UIN 300581, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Since the Department of Business Innovation and Skills was established in June 2009, Companies House has paid £3,302 on external legal advice and representation on employment issues.

*Letter from Peter Mason, dated 3 December 2009:*

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 18 November 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Since the formation of the Department in June 2009, the National Measurement Office has incurred £7,000 on external legal advice up to and including 1 December 2009: £6,000 on providing legal advice on land registration and construction disputes and £1,000 on providing legal advice on policy issues relating to hallmarking legislation on behalf of the Department's ministers.

*Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 24 November 2009:*

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 18 November 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office, an Executive Agency, of the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, spent £23,000 on external legal advice. This covered employment advice and developing proforma IP agreements.

We have also incurred £38,000 in costs for external legal advice, engaged and paid via Treasury Solicitors, on IP cases going through the legal system.

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 9 December 2009:*

The Minister of State, for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question what expenditure his Department and its agencies have incurred on external legal advice and representation in each year since his Department was established; and for what purposes such professional services have been commissioned.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has incurred the following expenses between June 2009 and October 2009:

£49,000 on external legal advice concerning contractual matters and

£3,054,000 on external legal services for investigation and enforcement purposes.

## Departmental Training

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which five training courses funded by his Department had the highest per diem rates in the last five years. [304560]

**Mr. McFadden:** Training budgets are not held centrally but delegated to line managers and business units. Decisions are made locally on how the money is spent and this information is not held centrally.

We are able to provide information for the centrally funded training and the per diem rates are as follows:

New Leaders Programme: £17,000 for an eight day programme for 14 delegates

Leadership Management: £1,595 for a 3.5 day programme

First Time Management: £880 for a three day programme

Induction: £415 for two to three hours

Staff Appraisal: £485 for a two day programme

## Estate Agents: Registration

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the number of estate agent practices which will be required to register with the Office of Fair Trading under the provisions of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007; [302792]

(2) how many of the estate agents which have registered with the Office of Fair Trading under the provisions of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 have registered *(a)* one premises, *(b)* between two and five premises, *(c)* between six and 10 premises and *(d)* 11 or more premises; [302793]

(3) how many estate agents have registered with the Office of Fair Trading under the provisions of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007; and what steps are available to the Office for use against estate agents who fail to register. [302794]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: The Office of Fair Trading has estimated that 9,600 estate agency firms (with 14,400 branches) will be active in the estate agency market at the close of the six month registration period (January 2010) and be required to register with the OFT.

Estate agents who have registered with the OFT for money laundering purposes fall into the following categories:

*(a)* one premise: 1,180

*(b)* between two and five premises: 334

*(c)* between six and 10 premises: 30

*(d)* 11 or more premises: 26

1,570 estate agents have registered with the OFT. Those who are not registered by 31 January 2010 will be breaking the law. Failure to register can result in a fine and/or imprisonment.

## Further Education: Admissions

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many places at further education colleges were unfilled due to last minute cancellations in the last year for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department or its predecessor was. [304540]

**Kevin Brennan:** Information is collected on the number of enrolments at each FE college which influences the amount of funding paid out by the Learning and Skills Council. FE colleges are not required to provide information on the number of unfilled places.

## Grocery Trade: Complaints

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when his Department will decide on the Competition Commission's recommendation on the establishment of a Groceries Supply Code of Practice Ombudsman. [305713]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Government intend to respond to this recommendation shortly.

## Internet: Security

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to hold *(a)* residential customers and *(b)* businesses legally responsible for the security of their wireless internet router under the provisions outlined in the Digital Economy Bill. [306056]

**Mr. Timms:** No one will be held legally responsible for the security of their wireless router under the provisions in the Digital Economy Bill.

## Learning and Skills Council for England: Pay

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent on *(a)* performance-related pay and *(b)* bonuses for Learning and Skills Council staff in each year since 1998-99. [302464]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Learning and Skills Council makes decisions about the payment of performance pay and bonuses. Geoff Russell, the council's acting chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Havant with further information.

*Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 8 December 2009:*

In response to your parliamentary question regarding, how much has been spent on (a) performance-related pay and (b) bonuses for Learning and Skills Council staff in each year since 1998-99.

Please see below:

a) Performance Related Pay:

The LSC does not link base salary to performance, other than to withhold elements of the pay review from individuals who fail to meet the required standards. Salary increases are dependant on individual position within the relevant pay band and subject to Treasury guidance on pay remit.

b) Bonuses:

The LSC has made bonus payments since 2003. The figures below consist of the staff bonus scheme and the executive scheme for the most senior roles.

Any bonus payments for the staff scheme are made subject to organisational performance that is measured at the Corporate level. Any bonus payments for the executive scheme are directly linked to a range of measures that span Corporate, Group/Regional and Individual performance. For example, in the year ended 31 March 2009, the main bonus driver was that corporate and regional goals to deliver PSA targets were met or exceeded, despite the uncertainties created from the machinery of government changes. More on these achievements can be found in our annual report. This can be obtained at

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/aboutus/annualreport/annual report0809/

All bonuses are subject to affordability.

| *Bonus payment year* | *Number of employees who received a bonus* | *Total payments (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 4,536 | 3,986,434 |
| 2004 | 3,795 | 3,340,821 |
| 2005 | 3,964 | 3,623,257 |
| 2006 | 3,836 | 4,520,612 |
| 2007 | 2,947 | 4,214,036 |
| 2008 | 3,160 | 4,652,723 |
| 2009 | 3,106 | 4,868,463 |

## London Metropolitan University

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) allocated to London Metropolitan University in each of the last five years; what amount was returned to HEFCE in each of those years due to course non-completion; and if he will make a statement. [304551]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]*: I will place a copy of this information in the Libraries of the House.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time, *(c)* drop-out and *(d)* course completion rates at London Metropolitan University in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [304552]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]*: I will place a copy of this information in the Libraries of the House.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking following the consultants' report on the finances of London Metropolitan University in respect of future funding; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]*: I welcome the work Sir David Melville and the Deloittes team have undertaken to review the situation at London Metropolitan University, and the lessons we need to learn about how that situation arose. I shall be studying the reports carefully. I look to the University and HEFCE similarly to consider Sir David's findings and the implications for the actions they now need to take. It is imperative that the University and HEFCE act with all due urgency to resolve the problems that have been identified, putting the interests of the students and the proper stewardship of public funds at the forefront of their concerns.

## Shops: Closures

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of high street shops which have closed in *(a)* England and *(b)* Milton Keynes since 1 January 2008. [304485]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of high street shops which have closed in (a) England and (b) Milton Keynes since 1 January 2008 (304485).

ONS does not have statistics on the number of high street shops. Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk. The table below contains the latest statistics available on business deaths for England and Milton Keynes. All counts are based on enterprises and not local units. Where a local unit closes but the enterprise continues to trade at other sites, a death will not be recorded in this data.

*Count of deaths of enterprises for 2008: Retail by England and Milton Keynes unitary authority*

| | | England | Milton Keynes UA |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Retail | 20,765 | 95 |
| 471 | Retail sale in non-specialised stores | 4,050 | 10 |
| 472 | Retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores | 3,190 | 10 |
| 473 | Retail sale of automotive fuel in specialised stores | 425 | 5 |
| 474 | Retail sale of information and communication equipment in specialised stores | 570 | 5 |
| 475 | Retail sale of other household equipment in specialised stores | 2,430 | 10 |
| 476 | Retail sale of cultural and recreation goods in specialised stores | 990 | 10 |
| 477 | Retail sale of other goods in specialised stores | 6,680 | 25 |
| 478 | Retail sale via stalls and markets | 250 | 0 |
| 479 | Retail trade not in stores, stalls or markets | 2,180 | 20 |

## Students: Loans

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for student loans were outstanding from the Student Loans Company on 1 December 2009. [illegible]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Student Loans Company has released figures to show the levels of processing and payment of Student Support in England for the 2009/10 academic year. The information is available on the Student Loans Company website and includes information, under "application status", on "applications currently being processed" and "further information required from student/sponsors".

I am advised that SLC is still receiving around 1,500 new applications each week.

## Unemployed: Qualifications

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of unemployed people between 18 and 24 years old in England whose highest qualification is *(a)* Level 4, *(b)* Level 3, *(c)* Level 2 and *(d)* below Level 2. [303305]

**Kevin Brennan:** The following table gives estimates of the highest qualification breakdown of ILO unemployed people aged 18 to 24 in England. These data are from the quarter 3 (July to September) 2009 Labour Force Survey.

*Qualification levels of ILO unemployed people aged 18 to 24, England*

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Level 4 and above | 20.7 |
| Level 3 | 22.8 |
| Level 2 | 23.9 |
| Below level 2 | 23.8 |
| No Qualifications | 8.7 |

Base:
People aged 18 to 24, England
Source:
Quarter 3 2009 Labour Force Survey

## Universities

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Privy Council and *(b)* Universities UK on the use of the title university in relation to university technical colleges, as referred to in paragraph 27 of his Department's paper Skills for Growth. [304838]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department has not had any discussions with the Privy Council or Universities UK on the use of the term 'university' in relation to university technical colleges. I have, however, been engaged in discussions with GuildHE over the use of term 'university' in a number of different ventures and been in correspondence with them over the new university technical college proposal.

## JUSTICE

### Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the answer of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 137-8W, on penalty notices for disorder, on what date the consultation on publishing information on reoffending will *(a)* open and *(b)* close; [305198]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of penalty notices for disorder given to those with previous *(a)* convictions and *(b)* penalty notices for disorder. [305199]

**Claire Ward:** The Ministry of Justice is currently finalising its consultation on plans to publish a range of reoffending related analyses that are not currently published. The consultation will be issued as soon as possible.

Due to concerns over the alleged inconsistent use of PNDs by the police the Justice Secretary has recently announced a review of the use of out-of-court disposals. The review will examine evidence on the use and enforcement of out-of-court disposals including PNDs and will report back to Parliament in due course.

### Christmas

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [305717]

**Mr. Wills:** The budgeted cost of Christmas trees and decorations for the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) headquarters locations for 2009 is £1,466 inclusive of VAT. This includes £200 on lights to decorate the trees which will be re-used in future years.

The information for agencies can be gathered only at a disproportionate cost. All four MoJ agencies (National Offender Management Service; HM Courts Service; Tribunals Service and Office of the Public Guardian) have regionalised structures. Each individual building orders its own trees and decorations.

### Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority takes account of budgetary constraints in determining the level of awards it wishes to make. [304273]

**Mr. Straw:** The levels of the awards the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) makes are set out in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2008. Accordingly, CICA must make awards based on these tariff levels, where the relevant criteria are met.

### Crown Dependencies

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date the Ministry of Justice issued advice to Government departments to *(a)* always consult his Department's Crown Dependencies Branch before making any statements on answers to parliamentary questions about Crown Dependencies and *(b)* where a UK policy initiative requires consultation with Crown Dependencies, to allow sufficient time for their governments to make consultation effective; on what date and in what manner he received notification from the Department of Health prior to its decisions to abrogate the reciprocal NHS arrangements with (i) Guernsey and Jersey with effect from 1 April 2009 and (ii) the Isle of Man from 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [305811]

**Mr. Wills:** Advice on consultation with the Ministry of Justice regarding the Crown Dependencies was circulated to all Departments in June 2006 and has been available on departmental websites since that time. It is currently being updated and will be re-circulated to all Departments in the new year. Officials in the Department of Health and the Ministry of Justice liaised on the UK Government's decision to withdraw from bilateral health agreements with the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man from February 2008.

### Domestic Violence: Greater Manchester

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of offences related to domestic violence in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* Greater Manchester in each of the last five years. [305101]

**The Solicitor-General:** I have been asked to reply.

The following number of people have been convicted of offences relating to domestic violence in Bolton in each of the last four years:

| | *Convictions* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 222 |
| 2007 | 225 |
| 2008 | 221 |
| 2009 | 281 |

The following number of people have been convicted of offences relating to domestic violence in Greater Manchester in each of the last four years:

| | *Convictions* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 2,188 |
| 2007 | 2,873 |
| 2008 | 2,992 |
| 2009 | 3,111 |

Due to improvements made in respect of domestic violence identification from 2006, no complete or comparable data are available for earlier periods.

## Driving Offences

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers convicted of driving without insurance in each police authority area in each year since 1997 had previous convictions for the same offence. [304286]

**Mr. Straw:** The information requested is in the table. Figures before 2000 are not available.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

*Number of offenders convicted of driving without insurance in each year and in each police force[1] who at the time of their conviction had at least one previous conviction for the same offence*

*Number of offenders*

| *Police Force* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset[2] | 10 | 7 | 17 | 235 | 734 | 779 | 784 | 712 | 620 |
| Bedfordshire | 322 | 391 | 430 | 524 | 473 | 458 | 436 | 338 | 259 |
| Cambridgeshire | 259 | 270 | 305 | 404 | 398 | 350 | 347 | 288 | 230 |
| Cheshire | 558 | 562 | 629 | 680 | 682 | 507 | 522 | 468 | 339 |
| City of London | 47 | 64 | 92 | 117 | 100 | 112 | 107 | 81 | 50 |
| Cleveland | 420 | 432 | 491 | 541 | 579 | 529 | 434 | 376 | 346 |
| Cumbria | 250 | 317 | 318 | 361 | 343 | 256 | 216 | 208 | 167 |
| Derbyshire | 603 | 561 | 655 | 719 | 721 | 572 | 484 | 459 | 359 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 565 | 590 | 708 | 791 | 649 | 614 | 525 | 460 | 406 |
| Dorset | 343 | 342 | 380 | 450 | 442 | 433 | 348 | 285 | 247 |
| Durham | 463 | 485 | 581 | 646 | 592 | 491 | [illegible] | 391 | 332 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 249 | 260 | 285 | 281 | 256 | 229 | 213 | 193 | 180 |
| Essex | 653 | 715 | 798 | 878 | 792 | 777 | 764 | 799 | 658 |
| Gloucestershire | 291 | 307 | 326 | 338 | 357 | 290 | 309 | 228 | 203 |
| Greater Manchester | 2,524 | 2,691 | 2,534 | 2,707 | 2,718 | 2,289 | 1,895 | 1,644 | 1,293 |
| Gwent | 563 | 538 | 522 | 580 | 535 | 527 | 476 | 381 | 307 |
| Hampshire | 817 | 834 | 931 | 999 | 854 | 766 | 639 | 638 | 513 |
| Hertfordshire | 350 | 326 | 394 | 443 | 476 | 504 | 522 | 376 | 335 |
| Humberside | 625 | 628 | 621 | 789 | 775 | 744 | 666 | 535 | 430 |
| Kent | 658 | 736 | 817 | 872 | 799 | 715 | 709 | 682 | 595 |
| Lancashire | 1,077 | 1,103 | 1,367 | 1,537 | 1,263 | 1,208 | 1,084 | 901 | 693 |
| Leicestershire | 754 | 771 | 883 | 961 | 925 | 683 | 520 | 429 | 320 |
| Lincolnshire | 269 | 257 | 280 | 353 | 393 | 310 | 330 | 254 | 227 |
| Merseyside | 1,112 | 1,172 | 1,293 | 1,506 | 1,478 | 1,357 | 1,140 | 894 | 738 |
| Metropolitan police | 2,251 | 2,446 | 3,088 | 3,674 | 4,193 | 4,248 | 4,429 | 4,267 | 4,062 |
| Norfolk | 335 | 388 | 428 | 459 | 401 | 335 | 278 | 303 | 272 |
| North Wales | 350 | 354 | 398 | 545 | 497 | 442 | 342 | 295 | 206 |
| North Yorkshire | 321 | 323 | 344 | 418 | 402 | 413 | 334 | 271 | 230 |
| Northamptonshire | 444 | 438 | 439 | 435 | 451 | 345 | 271 | 290 | 228 |
| Northumbria | 1,257 | 1,326 | 1,319 | 1,483 | 1,348 | 1,301 | 1,216 | 1,044 | 857 |
| Nottinghamshire | 938 | 958 | 957 | 1,278 | 1,227 | 1,019 | 846 | 681 | 587 |
| South Wales | 1,253 | 1,475 | 1,653 | 1,774 | 1,723 | 1,426 | 1,283 | 1,032 | 825 |
| South Yorkshire | 1,075 | 1,116 | 1,202 | 1,271 | 1,187 | 1,014 | 938 | 827 | 645 |
| Staffordshire | 603 | 661 | 741 | 859 | 813 | 750 | 656 | 552 | 511 |
| Suffolk | 244 | 264 | 329 | 400 | 383 | 317 | 286 | 220 | 164 |
| Surrey | 267 | 293 | 322 | 353 | 328 | 336 | 321 | 294 | 252 |
| Sussex | 492 | 547 | 590 | 622 | 613 | 579 | 560 | 609 | 444 |
| Thames Valley | 724 | 828 | 1,038 | 1,032 | 981 | 852 | 777 | 795 | 722 |
| Warwickshire | 215 | 257 | 287 | 289 | 327 | 279 | 242 | 245 | 191 |
| West Mercia | 495 | 537 | 569 | 633 | 625 | 620 | 537 | 440 | 368 |
| West Midlands | 2,378 | 2,652 | 3,045 | 3,312 | 3,500 | 3,118 | 2,737 | 2,269 | 1,706 |
| West Yorkshire | 1,945 | 1,894 | 2,011 | 2,262 | 2,167 | 1,745 | 1,391 | 1,214 | 1,049 |
| Wiltshire | 247 | 282 | 313 | 313 | 287 | 251 | 241 | 157 | 151 |
| England and Wales | 29,504 | 31,398 | 34,732 | 39,124 | 38,789 | 34,890 | 31,543 | 27,825 | 23,317 |

[1] Each offender is counted only once in each police force in each year.

[2] The numbers of convictions for driving without insurance recorded by Avon and Somerset in the data held by the Ministry of Justice are very low for the years 2000-03 and should be treated with caution.

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each police authority area were disqualified from driving as a result of drink-driving offences in each of the last 10 years. [304690]

**Claire Ward:** The number of disqualifications imposed at all courts for offences of driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs in England and Wales, by police force area, from 1998 to 2007 (latest available), is given in the following table.

*The number of disqualifications imposed at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, England and Wales, from 1998 to 2007*[1,2]

| | | | | | | | | | | Number of offences |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Avon and Somerset | 2,430 | 2,596 | 2,360 | 2,090 | 2,298 | 2,977 | 2,500 | 2,328 | 2,286 | 2,307 |
| Bedfordshire | 991 | 820 | 796 | 857 | 899 | 1,013 | 1,016 | 987 | 1,073 | 906 |
| Cambridgeshire | 972 | 869 | 721 | 742 | 782 | 879 | 1,042 | 1,164 | 1,221 | 1,201 |
| Cheshire | 1,790 | 1,600 | 1,555 | 1,429 | 1,853 | 1,784 | 1,906 | 1,432 | 1,712 | 1,700 |
| Cleveland | 825 | 758 | 729 | 824 | 870 | 997 | 956 | 884 | 954 | 879 |
| Cumbria | 762 | 800 | 730 | 763 | 716 | 781 | 845 | 808 | 815 | 801 |
| Derbyshire | 1,421 | 1,367 | 1,309 | 1,264 | 1,365 | 1,508 | 1,740 | 1,540 | 1,426 | 1,359 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2,136 | 2,100 | 2,118 | 2,201 | 2,347 | 2,570 | 2,440 | 2,290 | 2,260 | 2,154 |
| Dorset | 1,007 | 1,050 | 1,045 | 1,063 | 1,121 | 1,201 | 1,198 | 1,089 | 1,111 | 1,134 |
| Durham | 996 | 1,098 | 1,061 | 1,029 | 1,075 | 1,109 | 1,179 | 1,096 | 951 | 988 |
| Essex | 2,241 | 2,311 | 2,365 | 2,273 | 2,340 | 2,400 | 2,657 | 2,429 | 2,560 | 2,433 |
| Gloucestershire | 911 | 818 | 728 | 813 | 852 | 854 | 870 | 780 | 777 | 683 |
| Greater Manchester | 4,323 | 4,416 | 4,431 | 4,329 | 4,367 | 4,444 | 4,671 | 4,410 | 4,360 | 4,292 |
| Hampshire | 3,396 | 3,487 | 3,294 | 3,207 | 3,654 | 3,513 | 3,564 | 2,992 | 2,767 | 2,899 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,570 | 1,564 | 1,491 | 1,680 | 1,800 | 1,790 | 1,776 | 1,756 | 1,791 | 1,710 |
| Humberside | 1,209 | 1,239 | 1,277 | 1,164 | 1,314 | 1,356 | 1,512 | 1,505 | 1,450 | 1,004 |
| Kent | 2,361 | 2,436 | 2,305 | 2,424 | 2,502 | 1,456 | 2,825 | 2,552 | 2,646 | 2,650 |
| Lancashire | 2,774 | 2,700 | 2,441 | 2,174 | 2,465 | 2,916 | 2,570 | 2,571 | 2,646 | 2,632 |
| Leicestershire | 1,304 | 1,506 | 1,435 | 1,437 | 1,556 | 1,618 | 1,602 | 1,406 | 1,305 | 1,373 |
| Lincolnshire | 919 | 885 | 778 | 836 | 810 | 1,064 | 1,160 | 1,096 | 1,190 | 1,106 |
| London, City of | 205 | 228 | 190 | 156 | 200 | 223 | 164 | 177 | 152 | 178 |
| Merseyside | 2,225 | 1,981 | 1,945 | 2,000 | 2,109 | 2,475 | 2,529 | 2,012 | 2,444 | 2,190 |
| Metropolitan police district | 12,956 | 11,633 | 11,049 | 10,687 | 12,140 | 11,900 | 12,351 | 12,134 | 12,307 | 10,510 |
| Norfolk | 1,000 | 947 | 872 | 1,065 | 1,179 | 1,216 | 1,178 | 1,217 | 1,204 | 1,186 |
| Northamptonshire | 725 | 836 | 736 | 875 | 812 | 757 | 878 | 720 | 868 | 834 |
| Northumbria | 2,241 | 2,243 | 2,400 | 2,207 | 2,373 | 2,527 | 2,491 | 2,307 | 2,361 | 2,275 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,129 | 1,090 | 1,021 | 1,015 | 1,071 | 1,139 | 1,054 | 1,184 | 1,176 | 1,126 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,677 | 1,697 | 1,629 | 1,508 | 1,326 | 1,562 | 1,568 | 1,518 | 1,612 | 1,448 |
| South Yorkshire | 1,878 | 1,803 | 1,974 | 1,905 | 1,810 | 1,950 | 2,000 | 2,101 | 1,917 | 1,906 |
| Staffordshire | 1,844 | 1,592 | 1,777 | 1,431 | 1,592 | 1,633 | 1,629 | 1,618 | 1,567 | 1,605 |
| Suffolk | 955 | 1,002 | 828 | 856 | 1,022 | 1,099 | 1,190 | 981 | 1,053 | 958 |
| Surrey | 1,270 | 1,362 | 1,487 | 1,540 | 1,564 | 1,403 | 1,435 | 1,446 | 1,366 | 1,400 |
| Sussex[3] | 1,900 | 2,119 | 2,014 | 2,290 | 2,224 | 2,343 | [3]2,412 | 2,298 | 2,301 | 2,300 |
| Thames Valley | 3,707 | 3,527 | 3,348 | 3,137 | 4,147 | 3,752 | 3,405 | 3,196 | 3,202 | 3,216 |
| Warwickshire | 739 | 816 | 767 | 846 | 780 | 800 | 826 | 785 | 858 | 929 |
| West Mercia | 1,601 | 1,632 | 1,536 | 1,610 | 1,623 | [illegible] | 1,607 | 1,800 | 1,676 | 1,781 |
| West Midlands | 5,155 | 4,368 | 4,257 | 4,475 | 4,626 | 4,904 | 5,230 | 5,359 | 5,252 | 5,264 |
| West Yorkshire | 3,370 | 3,307 | 3,141 | 2,987 | 3,276 | 3,609 | 3,626 | 3,534 | 3,264 | 3,162 |
| Wiltshire | 1,022 | 930 | 871 | 966 | 978 | 990 | 940 | 890 | 958 | 746 |
| Dyfed Powys | 911 | 874 | 777 | 811 | 856 | 920 | 919 | 866 | 867 | 950 |
| Gwent | 1,000 | 983 | 1,064 | 1,051 | 863 | 1,055 | 1,108 | 981 | 1,001 | 900 |
| North Wales | 1,211 | 1,147 | 1,242 | 1,153 | 1,109 | 1,293 | 1,264 | 1,362 | 1,287 | 1,233 |
| South Wales | 2,629 | 2,296 | 2,495 | 2,574 | 2,573 | 2,646 | 2,666 | 2,630 | 2,556 | 2,431 |
| England and Wales | 86,191 | 83,117 | 80,285 | 79,277 | 84,887 | 87,013 | 90,627 | 86,967 | 87,190 | 84,007 |

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Figures given are not as originally published within the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics, England & Wales, 2004", which was released on 30 March 2006. The figures originally released in the above named publication were, due to a processing error, incorrect.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each region of England have been convicted of *(a)* a motoring offence that resulted in a fatality and *(b)* careless driving in each of the last two years. [305009]

**Claire Ward:** Data on the number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences of causing death by driving and for careless driving, by English Government office region, for 2006 and 2007 (latest available) are given in Tables 1 and 2.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

*Table 1: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences of causing death by driving[1], by Government office region in England, 2006 and 2007[2, 3]*

| | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 10 | 9 |
| North West | 31 | 39 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 41 | 36 |
| East Midlands | 27 | 31 |
| West Midlands | 32 | 32 |
| East of England | 28 | 32 |
| London | 29 | 24 |
| South East | 53 | 58 |
| South West | 20 | 22 |
| England | 271 | 283 |

*Table 1: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences of causing death by driving[1], by Government office region in England, 2006 and 2007[2, 3]*

[1] Includes offences of causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs. A separate offence of causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving came into effect in 2008.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

*Table 2: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences of careless driving[1], by Government Office Region in England, 2006 and 2007[2, 3]*

| | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 932 | 1,253 |
| North West | 2,616 | 3,855 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 1,467 | 2,600 |
| East Midlands | 1,234 | 2,126 |
| West Midlands | 2,304 | 3,689 |
| East of England | 2,937 | 4,123 |
| London | 2,415 | 3,942 |
| South East | 2,379 | 3,334 |
| South West | 1,920 | 2,184 |
| England | 18,204 | 27,106 |

[1] Includes offences of use of hand held mobile phone while driving. Tough new penalties for using a hand-held mobile phone while driving and for failing to have proper control of a vehicle came into effect on 27 February 2007.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

## Drugs: Sussex

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been found guilty of offences of drug *(a)* possession and *(b)* dealing in (i) Sussex and (ii) Lewes constituency in each year since 1997. [304276]

**Mr. Straw:** The number of persons found guilty at all courts in the Sussex police force area for offences of possession, and supplying or offering to supply, a controlled drug, from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

*Number of persons found guilty at all courts in the Sussex police force area for offences of possession, and supplying or offering to supply, a controlled drug, from 1997 to 2007[1, 2]*

| *Offence description* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Having possession of a controlled drug | 525 | 533 | 475 | 433 | 581 | 621 | 593 | 476 | 510 | 524 | 638 |
| Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply | 104 | 102 | 84 | 54 | 72 | 96 | 103 | 71 | 61 | 72 | 113 |

*Number of persons found guilty at all courts in the Sussex police force area for offences of possession, and supplying or offering to supply, a controlled drug, from 1997 to 2007*[1, 2]

| *Offence description* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug | 45 | 66 | 46 | 31 | 25 | 55 | 57 | 70 | 164 | 152 | 103 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice

## Elections: Armed Forces

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements have been made to enable members of the armed forces to participate in the 2010 general election through *(a)* campaign contact by candidates (i) in person and (ii) through literature and *(b)* voting in (A) the UK, (B) other European Union member states and (C) overseas beyond the EU; and if he will make a statement. [306053]

**Mr. Wills:** With respect to campaign contact by candidates, the Queen's Regulations prohibit all forms of political activity, including political meetings and speeches, in service establishments. Canvassers may visit at the discretion of the commanding officer, but no material issued by or on behalf of a political party may be distributed in service institutions. There is good internet access in service establishments, including those overseas, and personnel may access campaign information in this way. They may also access television election broadcasts. Campaign literature may be sent to those electors who have a UK address on the electoral register.

The Government are committed to supporting electoral participation by service personnel and their families. Service personnel may vote in person, by post or by proxy. The declaration period for service voters is to be extended from three years to five as soon as parliamentary time allows, which will increase convenience for these voters. However, service voters face unique challenges in exercising their vote. I recently met armed forces families' representatives and MPs to discuss service voting and a range of suggestions were made to further assist service personnel and their families. I have also set up a working group to consider possible improvements to the current system for this election and to identify a more comprehensive solution to be taken forward in the next Parliament.

## Fines

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 768-70W, on fines, for what reason the publication of data for 2008 on penalty notices for disorder will not take place before the end of January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [305066]

**Claire Ward:** 'Criminal Statistics, England and Wales' is an annual national statistic publication covering a range of pre-court disposals (including penalty notices for disorder), court proceedings and outcomes. The publication is normally scheduled for late autumn of the following year to which it refers. The length of time from end of the year to publication is due to the extensive validation checks that are carried out to ensure where possible individual data are consistent with both legislation and the actual outcome at court. This requires direct liaison with court staff to confirm the accuracy of these data.

The Ministry of Justice had pre-announced, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, that the publication covering data for the calendar year of 2008 would be released in November 2009. Since announcing this date, data quality issues were encountered. To allow sufficient time to resolve these issues the publication was delayed. An update on the delay of this publication was released on the Ministry of Justice website on 9 October 2009.

The publication of Criminal Statistics is planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

## Freedom of Information: Network Rail

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason Network Rail was not made subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a result of his recent review of the scope of the Act. [305620]

**Mr. Straw:** On 16 July 2009, the Government published their response to the consultation on extending the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to cover additional bodies by way of a section 5 order. The Government response proposed an initial, focused section 5 order and noted their intention to consult Academies, ACPO, Financial Ombudsman Service and UCAS on their possible inclusion in such an order.

The Government made clear that this was an initial step and further consideration would be given to how other bodies, for example, Network Rail might also be brought within the scope of the freedom of information regime. In certain cases, it may be more appropriate to use primary legislation rather than a section 5 order.

## Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications were received for the position of *(a)* chairperson and *(b)* board member of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; how many applicants were shortlisted; and when he expects further appointments of board members to be made. [301058]

**Mr. Straw:** As set out in the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009, the appointment of members to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) is a matter for Mr. Speaker, the Speaker's Committee for the IPSA and the House itself.

### Information Commissioner's Office: Secondment

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of people working in the Information Commissioner's Office are secondees from *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Cabinet Office and *(c)* other Government Departments. [305725]

**Mr. Wills:** The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the independent authority responsible for enforcing the Freedom of Information Act.

There are currently no secondees working for the ICO from the Cabinet Office, one from the Ministry of Justice, two from HM Revenue and Customs, and one from the Department of Health. These secondees represent 1.2 per cent. of the total equivalent full-time staff working for the ICO.

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in work group six in the Information Commissioner's Office are secondees from the *(a)* Cabinet Office and *(b)* Ministry of Justice. [305728]

**Mr. Wills:** The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the independent authority responsible for enforcing the Freedom of Information Act.

The ICO is supported by four secondees from Government Departments. Within work group six in the ICO, there is currently one secondee from the Ministry of Justice and no secondees from the Cabinet Office.

### Judiciary: Criminal Records

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of members of the judiciary have a criminal record; and how many members of the judiciary have been dismissed for committing a criminal offence in each of the last 10 years. [305785]

**Mr. Straw:** No record is kept of the number or proportion of the judiciary who have a criminal record.

The judicial appointment process requires candidates to be of good character. Applicants are required to declare their criminal records, which are checked with the Criminal Records Bureau and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, and for serving judges being recommended to a different post, with the Office for Judicial Complaints. All but the most minor convictions will normally disqualify someone from being appointed.

Post appointment, judicial office holders are required to report any criminal caution or charge to their senior judge and keep him or her informed of the progress and outcome of the case.

Information regarding the number of judiciary who have been dismissed for committing a criminal offence has only been collated centrally from 2004. The information is as follows:

2004: Two magistrates

2005: Six magistrates

2006-07: Three magistrates

2007-08: Two magistrates

2008-09: Two magistrates and one district judge.

### Legal Aid

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice where each *(a)* community legal aid centre and *(b)* community legal advice network is located. [304833]

**Bridget Prentice:** There are currently five community legal advice centres located in:

Gateshead

Leicester

Derby

Portsmouth

Hull

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) and the relevant local authorities plan to establish the following centres during the course of 2010, subject to successful tenders:

Manchester

Barking and Dagenham

Wakefield

The LSC and the relevant local authorities also plan to establish the following community legal advice networks during the course of 2010, subject to successful tenders:

East Riding of Yorkshire

West Sussex.

### Members Expenses

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost has been of establishing the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) including preparation of the report by the Committee on Standards in Public Life on hon. Members' expenses and allowances and the appointments to the IPSA board made to date. [301057]

**Mr. Straw:** The new estimate [HC18] laid before Parliament on the 24 November 2009 states that Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's (IPSA) budget for financial year 2009-10 is £6.571 million. This includes various set-up costs such as procuring and fitting a new building but also includes salaries both for staff members of IPSA as well as the IPSA programme team.

The report of the Committee for Standards in Public Life records that the cost of its inquiry was £393,000. This is entirely separate to costs involved in the establishment of IPSA.

### Prisons: Strikes

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contingency plans his Department has for the eventuality of a strike by prison officers in England and Wales. [305783]

**Maria Eagle:** All prisons are required to have contingency plans in place to deal with refusal to work by prison officers. The National Offender Management Service has a command structure in place to deal with a range of scenarios including strike action.

## Prosecutions: Animal welfare

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many animal cruelty convictions there were in courts in North Yorkshire in each year since 1996. [304587]

**Claire Ward:** Information showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences involving animal cruelty, in the North Yorkshire police force area from 1996 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

*Number of offenders found guilty at all courts for animal cruelty offences[1], North Yorkshire police force area, 1996 to 2007[2, 3]*

| | Number of offenders |
|---|---|
| 1996 | 20 |
| 1997 | 22 |
| 1998 | 33 |
| 1999 | 43 |
| 2000 | 25 |
| 2001 | 19 |
| 2002 | 18 |
| 2003 | 25 |
| 2004 | 17 |
| 2005 | 15 |
| 2006 | 11 |
| 2007 | 15 |

[1] The offences of animal cruelty are covered by the following acts: The Protection of Animals Act 1911, Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Performing Animals (Regulations) Act 1926, Protection of Animals Act 1934, Docking and Nicking of Horses Act 1949, Pet Animals Act 1951, Cockfighting Act 1952, Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954, Animal Health Act 1981, Slaughterhouses Act 1974, Abandonment of Animals Act 1960, Animal & Animal Products (Import & Export) Regulations 1998, Animals (Cruel Poisons) Act 1962, Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963, Riding Establishments Acts 1964 and 1970, Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967, Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968, Badgers Act 1973, Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996, Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 2000, the Fur Farming (Prohibition) Act 2000 and the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

## Sexual Offences

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of serious sexual assault in each region in each of the last two years. [305244]

**Claire Ward:** Information showing the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for serious sexual offences by Government office region, 2006 and 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts by Government office region for serious sexual crimes[1], England and Wales 2006 and 2007[2, 3]*

| | 2006 | | 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| North East | 459 | 254 | 432 | 232 |
| North West | 1,156 | 610 | 1,201 | 625 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 645 | 420 | 638 | 440 |
| East Midlands | 605 | 336 | 547 | 370 |
| West Midlands | 901 | 455 | 776 | 439 |
| East of England | 599 | 341 | 466 | 339 |
| London | 1,387 | 508 | 1,314 | 547 |
| South East | 900 | 469 | 915 | 497 |
| South West | 509 | 299 | 520 | 302 |
| Wales | 420 | 194 | 407 | 188 |
| England and Wales | 7,581 | 3,886 | 7,216 | 3,979 |

[1] Offences include:
Sexual assault on a male
Rape or attempted rape of a male and female
Sexual assault on a female
Sexual activity with child under 13
Sexual activity with child under 16
Sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder
Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography
Trafficking for sexual exploitation
Gross indecency with children

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of (i) assault and (ii) sexual assault on teachers in each region in each of the last two years. [305246]

**Claire Ward:** The Court Proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice contains information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales on a persons basis. These data include information on the age of the defendant, their gender, the police force area and court where proceedings took place as well as the specific offence and statute for the offence. Other than where specified in a statute statistical information held does not identify the employment status of a victim of an offence.

### Solicitors Regulation Authority: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what payments the Solicitors Regulation Authority has made to Lexington in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305424]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Solicitors Regulation Authority is the independent regulatory arm of the Law Society of England and Wales. It receives no public funding, and is paid for by the solicitors' profession, including through practising fees. I have asked the SRA if this information is available, and they have agreed to respond in writing directly to the hon. Member.

### Victims Advisory Panel

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what remuneration the chair of the Victims Advisory Panel receives; [304308]

(2) how many people worked for the Victims Advisory Panel in each of the last three years; [304309]

(3) how much was spent on the Victims Advisory Panel in each of the last three years. [304310]

**Mr. Straw:** This Victims Advisory Panel is currently chaired by senior officials in the Office of Criminal Justice Reform. There is no additional remuneration for this role.

The Victims Advisory Panel recruited in July 2006 originally consisted of nine volunteers. Two more volunteer panel members were recruited in 2007 to replace one member who resigned, bringing the total panel members to 10.

The current Victims Advisory Panel's tenure concluded in July 2009. Four panel members have agreed to extend their membership and continue their work until February 2010 when we expect to appoint the Victims' Commissioner.

The Government spent the following amounts supporting the Victims Advisory Panel:

£19,116 in 2007-08

£46,940 in 2008-09

£6,692 in 2009-10 (up to the end of October 2009).

### Young Offenders: Training

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether offenders under the age of 24 years who are directed to participate in a training course may do so *(a)* in addition to a community sentence or rehabilitation and *(b)* instead of a community sentence or rehabilitation. [305323]

**Claire Ward:** Young adult offenders aged 18 to 24 may, depending on the circumstances of the offence and offender, be sentenced to a community order. The community order is available to courts on conviction under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and may include a programme requirement, an activity requirement or an attendance centre requirement, among others. The purposes of sentencing set out in the Act include the reform and rehabilitation of offenders.

A programme requirement requires the offender to participate in a particular accredited programme at times and places specified in the order. Under an activity requirement offenders may be required to take part in activities at places and times specified in the order. An attendance centre requirement means that the offender must attend an attendance centre at the times specified and engage in occupation or receive instruction as required. Some of these programmes, activities, etc. could be described as training courses.

A court may impose an ancillary order in addition to or instead of a community order. Some such orders for example, a parenting order, may include elements of training. Programme, activity and attendance centre requirements may also be imposed on 18 to 24-year-olds as part of a suspended sentence order.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 14 December 2009*

## SCOTLAND

### Christmas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305632]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office do not set aside a specific budget for Christmas trees and the costs are not separately identifiable. All the trees came from sustainable sources and are recycled into green compost.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [306692]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office do not set aside a specific budget for Christmas trees.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305674]

**Ann McKechin:** Under the terms of its building leases the Office is required to maintain its buildings to an acceptable standard of decoration and repair. The Scotland Office does not separately identify the costs of renovation and refurbishment from the routine repair and replacement of existing facilities. Over the period of the last 12 months, the expenditure on offices allocated to Ministers was £3,150.

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305857]

**Ann McKechin:** No civil servants in the Scotland Office have attended conferences held overseas in the last three years.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306070]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office has not purchased any plasma screen televisions.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* laptop computers, *(b)* desktop computers and *(c)* memory sticks his Department has recorded as having been (i) lost and (ii) stolen (A) in total and (B) from its offices in Scotland in each of the last 10 years. [306697]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since this date one laptop used by a Scotland Office official was stolen in February 2000. The laptop did not contain any secure information. There are no recorded losses or thefts of memory sticks or desk top computers.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many days sickness absence were taken by staff in his Department in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of such absence. [305548]

**Ann McKechin:** All staff are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice; who as parent Departments have absence management policies that apply to those of their staff working in this Office. We do not maintain a separate central record of sick absences. Such records are held by the parent Departments who publish their sick absence statistics.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305889]

**Ann McKechin:** No overseas training courses have been attended by Scotland Office staff.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the *(a)* subject and *(b)* location of each away day was. [306403]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office business planning away day in Edinburgh at a cost £2,660, was the only expenditure incurred in the last 12 months.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what percentage of parliamentary questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307545]

**Ann McKechin:** In session 2008-09, 32 named day parliamentary questions were tabled to the Scotland Office. 75 per cent. received a substantive answer on the named day.

Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the 'Guide to Parliamentary Work', at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee Report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accept the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

### Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last visited Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre on official business. [305734]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I have never visited Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre on official business in my capacity as Secretary of State for Scotland.

### Excise Duties: Fuels

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will discuss with the Chancellor of the Exchequer the merits of reducing the rate of fuel duty levied in rural areas of Scotland. [307123]

**Ann McKechin:** My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with HM Treasury about a range of issues affecting Scotland. Decisions on fuel duty rates are a matter for the Chancellor, who takes into account a range of factors in setting them. Reducing the rate of fuel duty levied in rural areas of Scotland would represent a departure from the principle of uniform duty rates across the UK.

## TRANSPORT

### Civil Servants: Allowances

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the business expenses incurred by senior civil servants in his Department will be published on his Department's website. [305947]

**Chris Mole:** Business expenses incurred by Department for Transport senior civil servants were published on our website on 9 December 2009:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/howthedftworks/costs/

Additional information in the form of a departmental senior civil servant hospitality register will be published shortly, although a release date is currently to be confirmed.

### Civil Servants: Pay

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the total basic pay bill was of members of the senior civil service within his Department in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [305950]

**Chris Mole:** The total basic pay bill for the senior civil service in the Department for Transport was £15,580,392 in 2008 and £16,686,383 in 2009.

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the mean average percentage pay increase for members of the senior civil service in his Department was in 2009. [305951]

**Chris Mole:** The average percentage pay increase in 2009 for members of the senior civil service in the Department for Transport was 2.3 per cent.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305679]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport spent £1,693.24 on works and refurbishment to Ministers' offices over the last 12 months. There was also some expenditure on general maintenance of the plant and equipment related to the location of the Ministers' offices but this was not separately identified from general building maintenance.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306067]

**Chris Mole:** The breakdown requested is not held centrally and to attempt to provide it now would incur disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305489]

**Chris Mole:** Statistics published by the Ministry of Justice on Freedom of Information in central Government for 2008 show that a total of 1,964 non-routine requests were received by the Department for Transport (based on aggregated quarterly data). 85 per cent. (1,679) received a substantive response within 20 days. 89 per cent. (1,751) of requests were dealt with 'in time', that is within 20 days by meeting the deadline or other permitted extension deadlines.

The statistics can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

and copies are available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what redesigns of websites operated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such redesign was. [306158]

**Chris Mole:** Tables have been placed in the Libraries of the House showing a list of websites currently operated by the Department for Transport and its agencies who have undertaken a redesign since 27 June 2007; the cost of the redesign and subsequent date of completion. Costs provided are those incurred by external suppliers and do not include internal staff costs. To provide internal staff costs would incur disproportionate costs.

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what redesigns of websites operated by the Office of Rail Regulation have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306212]

**Chris Mole:** The independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) redesigned their intranet and website during 2007-08. The total cost for the redesign of both was £107,169, including consultancy fees, costs of external suppliers involved in the redesign and provision of specialist IT equipment to deliver the project. The updated intranet and website went live on 10 November 2008.

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on *(a)* purchases of and *(b)* bills for use of (i) Blackberrys and (ii) other mobile telephones in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10. [303103]

**Chris Mole:** The information requested for the Department for Transport and its agencies is as follows:

| | *DfT (central)*[1] | *DVLA*[2] | *HA*[3] | *DSA*[4] | *MCA*[5] | *VOSA*[6] | *VCA*[7] | *GCDA*[8] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | Purchases and bills for Blackberrys—£32,400 and £47,300. Purchase of mobiles—£372 | Purchases and bills—£117,100 for mobiles | Purchases were nil for Blackberrys. Bills for both were £212,035 | Purchases and bills—£45,300 for mobiles and £1,620 for Blackberrys | Purchases £4,550 for mobiles, £96,400 for Blackberrys. Bills were £101,630 for mobiles and £32,400 for Blackberrys | Purchases were £2,520 for Blackberrys. Combined bills were £298,000 | Purchase and bills for mobiles—£1,080 and £30,700 | Mobile purchases—£175, bills—£43,100 |
| 2009-10 to date | Purchases and bills for Blackberrys—£25,700 and £63,900. Purchase of mobiles—£2,000 | Purchases and bills—£64,800 for mobiles | Purchases were £3,290 for Blackberrys. Bills for both are £116,877 | Purchases and bills—£31,170 for mobiles and £835 for Blackberrys | Purchases were £2,500 for mobiles and nil for Blackberrys. Bills were £65,000 for mobiles and £40,400 for Blackberrys | Purchases of Blackberrys were nil. Combined bills are £167,200 | Purchase and bills for mobiles—£510 and £26,200 | Mobile purchases—£227, bills—£19,700 |

[1] Purchase costs of mobiles only available from 1 October 2008 when purchase centralised. Mobile bills can be provided only at disproportionate cost due to decentralised accounting procedures.
[2] DVLA does not currently buy Blackberrys. Separation of costs between purchases and bills can be provided only at disproportionate cost.
[3] Bills figures cannot be separated between mobiles and Blackberrys. Mobile purchase costs are in bills and be separated only at disproportionate cost. 2008-09 figures only available from August to March.
[4] Separation of costs between purchases and bills can be provided only at disproportionate cost.
[5] Mobile figures include data only mobile costs.
[6] Separation of bills between Blackberrys and mobiles can be provided only at disproportionate cost.
[7] Blackberrys not used.
[8] No spend on Blackberrys.

### Departmental Pay

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage pay increase the Chief Executive of each of his Department's agencies received in 2009. [306510]

**Chris Mole:** Information on the remuneration of individual Agency Chief Executives in the Department for Transport is included in their Agency's Annual Report and Accounts. Copies of these are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent in Wales in each financial year since 1997; and what major projects in Wales received funding from his Department in each of those years. [306630]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport publishes estimates of its Total Expenditure on Services per head by region and country in its Annual Report. These figures rest on a number of assumptions, for example about how total expenditure on strategic highways and rail should be attributed to different regions.

These figures exclude grant to local authorities, as this information is collated separately by the Department for Communities and Local Government, Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department for Work and Pensions and devolved Administrations.

The Total Expenditure on Services attributed to Wales by the Department since its formation in May 2002 is provided in the following table:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 165.8 |
| 2003-04 | 138.6 |
| 2004-05 | 172.8 |
| 2005-06 | 161.4 |
| 2006-07 | 138.4 |
| 2007-08 | 136.0 |

Further details of total expenditure on Wales can be found in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) published by HM Treasury.

Details of expenditure on individual major projects should be sought from the devolved Administration for Wales.

### Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 645W, on departmental rail travel, if he will place in the Library a copy of the relevant section of his Department's staff handbook on claiming travel expenses. [305149]

**Chris Mole:** The section of the Department's Staff Handbook, and those of its agencies, relating to rail travel has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Departmental Scientists

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many (*a*) scientific advisers and (*b*) civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [301922]

**Chris Mole:** The information requested in part (*a*) is two: the Department for Transport has a chief and a deputy chief scientific adviser.

The information requested in part (*b*) is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, based on the latest data from the Government Science and Engineering (GSE) Network, which is on an 'opt in' basis, 39 respondents from this Department indicated that they had a science background, which is either essential or useful to their post.

### Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [illegible]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport includes seven agencies, a shared service centre and the central Department.

The information requested on departmental passes issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months is not held centrally on the Department's access control systems.

Some information in records held locally by security liaison officers within the Department and its Agencies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's access control policies are in line with the HMG Security Policy Framework Mandatory Requirements 56, 57 and 58, and provide the appropriate security standards for controlling and monitoring access to the Government Estate. This includes enabling visitors, including non-staff employed by a Department, to enter facilities and go about their business safely and in a controlled way.

### Departmental Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date he last travelled by (*a*) bus and (*b*) taxi in the course of his official duties. [302729]

**Mr. Khan:** I last travelled by bus in the course of my official duties on 10 December 2009 and by taxi (a green car provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency) on the 25 November 2009.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Office of Rail Regulation has spent on hotel accommodation for its officials in each of the last five years. [illegible]

**Chris Mole:** Spending on hotel accommodation for its officials at the independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in each of the last five years is set out in the following table.

*Hotel accommodation*

| | 2008-09 | 2007-08[1] | 2006-07[2] | 2005-06 | 2004-05 (£) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK | 98,885.47 | 106,337.53 | 164,522.15 | 3,938.80 | 7,794.43 |
| Overseas | 19,122.48 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Total | 118,007.95 | 106,337.53 | 164,522.15 | 3,938.80 | 7,794.43 |

[1] Hotel accommodation spend was not split between UK and Overseas on ORR's financial ledger prior to 2008-09.

[2] The merger of Her Majesty's Railway Inspectorate (HMRI) with ORR in 2006-07 explains the increase in spend between 2005-06 and 2006-07. In a typical year pre-merger HMRI spent approximately £90,000 on hotel accommodation.

### Lorries: Licensing

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for each year from 1997 to date, how many operating licences for road hauliers have been extant; and how many vehicles were registered under such licences in each year. [illegible]

**Paul Clark:** The figures are contained in the Traffic Commissioners' Annual Report and are:

| | Licences | Vehicles |
|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 111,119 | 400,365 |
| 1999-2000 | 110,067 | 397,103 |
| 2000-01 | 105,475 | 392,390 |
| 2001-02 | 105,216 | 400,636 |
| 2002-03 | 102,828 | 400,653 |
| 2003-04 | 102,966 | 397,496 |
| 2004-05 | 101,657 | [illegible] |
| 2005-06 | 99,889 | 368,290 |
| 2006-07 | 98,794 | 371,522 |
| 2007-08 | 98,409 | 361,399 |
| 2008-09 | 97,476 | 362,796 |

Figures for 1997-98 are not available as they were recorded in a different format.

## M6: Walsall

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 37W, on the M6: Walsall, whether the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency plans to visit the managed motorway works on the M6 within Walsall borough before Christmas 2009. [[illegible]]

**Chris Mole:** The chief executive of the Highways Agency is planning to visit the site of the Managed Motorway works on the M6 at Walsall before Christmas 2009. He wrote to my hon. Friend on 10 December to advise him of a date.

## Piracy

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of pirate attacks that have been recorded in each region of the world in each year since 2006. [305775]

**Paul Clark:** The number of ships that have reported piracy incidents to the International Maritime Bureau in each of the last four years are as follows:

| | Number of attacks | UK registered |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 239 | 3 |
| 2007 | 263 | 3 |
| 2008 | 293 | 6 |
| 2009 | 380 | 3 |

In areas of significant pirate activity the numbers of attacks in each of the last four years are as follows:

| | | | | | | Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Bangladesh | Indonesia | Malacca Straits | Nigeria | Gulf of Aden | Somalia |
| 2006 | 47 | 50 | 11 | 12 | 7 | 10 |
| 2007 | 15 | 43 | 7 | 42 | 10 | 31 |
| 2008 | 12 | 28 | 2 | 40 | 92 | 19 |
| 2009 | 15 | 12 | 2 | 26 | 113 | 74 |

## Public Transport: Public Expenditure

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much direct Government funding has been allocated to public transport schemes in *(a)* Merseyside, *(b)* Manchester and *(c)* West Yorkshire since 2006. [[illegible]]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport (DFT) allocates integrated transport block (IT Block) funding to local transport authorities for smaller transport schemes costing less than £5 million. This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities, including public transport schemes. Local transport authorities can apply for additional funding for specific major projects. The Government also provide rural bus subsidy grant which helps local authorities to support rural bus services in England.

The Department has provided the following funding for the support of public transport schemes in Merseyside, Manchester and West Yorkshire. The figures are £ millions.

*(a) Merseyside*

| | | | | £ million |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | IT Block | Major schemes | Bus subsidy | Total |
| 2008-09 | 58.55 | 0 | 0.14 | 58.69 |
| 2007-08 | 56.50 | 0 | 0.14 | 56.64 |
| 2006-07 | 33.02 | 0 | 0.14 | 33.16 |

*(b) Manchester*

| | | | | £ million |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | IT Block | Major schemes | Bus subsidy | Total |
| 2008-09 | 45.71 | 95.60 | 0.32 | 141.63 |
| 2007-08 | 46.38 | 40.10 | 0.31 | 86.79 |
| 2006-07 | 39.91 | 13.60 | 0.30 | 53.81 |

*(c) West Yorkshire*

| | | | | £ million |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | IT Block | Major schemes | Bus subsidy | Total |
| 2008-09 | 29.45 | 0.50 | 1.10 | 31.05 |
| 2007-08 | 27.96 | 0.70 | 1.07 | 29.73 |
| 2006-07 | 28.49 | 6.30 | 1.04 | 35.83 |

In addition, the Government subsidise bus services in England through the Department's Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG). BSOG is paid directly to operators of local bus services and funding figures are unavailable by geographic region.

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant.

DFT funding for rail projects is not available on the basis of local authority boundaries.

### Railway Stations: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what assessment his Department has made of the proportion of financial support for station improvements identified for priority improvement by the Station Champions that will come from *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* industry and *(c)* central Government; [306280]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the proportion of financial support for station improvements at Stockport Railway Station which will come from *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* rail industry and *(c)* central Government; [306281]

(3) whether station improvements on the 10 major interchange stations identified for priority improvement by the Station Champions would go ahead without financial support from local government and industry; [306282]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the ability of *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* local industry to provide financial support for station improvements at railway stations as part of the new £50 million fund; [306286]

(5) by what date he expects to announce the amount of funding from the new £50 million fund to be distributed for station improvements at Stockport railway station. [306340]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport has agreed with Network Rail that they will make up to £50 million available in the near future to tackle improvements at the 10 key stations, including Stockport, identified in the Station Champions' report as being in most need of improvement.

We are challenging the industry and local government to raise part of the money required for each of these stations themselves to help us maximise the impact of the £50 million. At this stage it is not possible to anticipate the proportion of funding that will come from Network Rail, industry and local government either at Stockport or at any of the other priority stations. However, we are expecting third party funding to be a key feature of those schemes that are taken forward. We realise that seeking additional funding in the current economic climate may be difficult, but this is crucial in maximising the benefit of the schemes.

We are keen for improvements at these stations to begin as soon as possible, and anticipate that the £50 million will be used as part of a rolling programme before 2014. Announcements will be made as improvement packages at individual stations are agreed.

### Railways

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reason the target of 25 new light rail schemes by 2010 was abandoned; and how many such schemes he is now progressing. [305617]

**Mr. Khan** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* The 10 Year Plan published in July 2000 set out indicative figures for the number of light rail schemes that might be delivered by 2010. This was neither a target nor a commitment for the Government.

Since 2000 the following schemes have been completed in England:

| *Scheme name* | *Date of opening* |
|---|---|
| Croydon Tramlink | May 2000 |
| Manchester Metrolink—Extension to Eccles | July 2000 |
| Tyne and Wear Metro Extension to Sunderland | March 2002 |
| Nottingham Express Transit Line 1 | March 2004 |
| Docklands Light Railway—Extension to London City airport | December 2005 |
| Docklands Light Railway—Extension to Woolwich Arsenal | January 2009 |

In addition, we have granted final funding approval to extend the Manchester Metrolink to Oldham, Rochdale and Chorlton and a scheme to refurbish the Blackpool and Fleetwood tram system. These schemes are currently under construction.

We also announced in July 2009, Conditional Approval for two extensions for the Nottingham Express Transit which are currently in procurement.

The Department is currently considering further proposals to extend the Manchester Metrolink system to East Didsbury and Ashton; an extension of Midland Metro Line One in Birmingham to the city centre and a proposal to fund a capital renewal programme on the Tyne and Wear Metro system.

### Road Traffic Control

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effect on traffic volume of the introduction of speed bumps in residential roads of less than 200 metres in length. [306015]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport has commissioned various research projects into the effectiveness of road humps. These considered the effect on traffic flow but did not include the length of the road as a factor. While results for the different types of hump varied, the research found an average flow reduction of 20 per cent. can be expected through the traffic calmed area after the installation of road humps.

### Roads: Accidents

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many accidents involving vehicles in the other motor vehicle category have been recorded by his Department in each of the last five years; [306491]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 264W, on "Invalid Vehicles: Accidents", which types of vehicle his Department includes in the other motor vehicle category. [306492]

**Paul Clark:** The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving vehicles in the "other motor vehicles" category in each of the last five years is shown in the table:

*Reported personal injury road accidents involving 'other motor vehicles': Great Britain, 2004-08*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 3,788 |
| 2005 | 2,078 |
| 2006 | 1,970 |
| 2007 | 2,971 |
| 2008 | 3,238 |

Other motor vehicles are types of motor vehicle that do not fall into any of the main categories recorded by the police. Examples include ambulances, fire engines, motor caravans, motorised wheel chairs and quad bikes. Details of what vehicles are included in the main categories, together with further examples of other motor vehicles, can be found on pages 44 and 45 of the 'Instructions for the Completion of Road Accident Reports', which is on the Department's website at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/s20instructionsforthecom5094.pdf

## Roads: Construction

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many new *(a)* bypasses and *(b)* major local road schemes he plans to construct by 2015. [305619]

**Mr. Khan** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]*: 62 bypasses (on both the strategic highway and local road network) and 39 local major road schemes (costing over £5 million) have been completed since 2000. A further four bypass and 14 local major road schemes are currently under construction in England.

Regions in England have allocated funding within their Regional Funding Allocations programme for approximately 14 bypasses and 57 local major road schemes to be taken forward to construction by 2015.

A scheme's inclusion within the Regional Funding Allocation programme does not necessarily mean the funding has been approved. Schemes will only proceed once they have successfully completed the Department's funding approval processes and secured any necessary legal powers.

## Speed Limits: Cameras

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many speed cameras were deployed in each local authority area in Wales in each year since 1997; and how much revenue there was from fines in each area in each such year. [306631]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport only holds information about the number of speed camera sites operating within the National Safety Camera Programme which started in 2001 and ended on 31 March 2007. Separate information for each local authority in Wales is not held. The number of camera sites operating each year in Wales from 2001 to 2007 is outlined in Table 1. Details of fine revenue collected is outlined in Table 2.

*Table 1: Fixed and mobile speed camera sites in Wales by partnership area and year*

| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mid and South Wales | 74 | 266 | 327 | 353 | 354 | 355 | 355 |
| North Wales | 27 | 28 | 66 | 72 | 73 | 73 | 73 |

*Table 2: Speed and red light revenue from fixed penalty notices paid in Wales by financial year and partnership area*

| | | | | | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| Mid and South Wales | [1]26,117 | 1,876,260 | 7,264,560 | 7,281,180 | 6,553,440 | 6,060,840 | 5,881,360 |
| North Wales | | 648,780 | 2,609,040 | 3,374,820 | 3,029,700 | 3,962,280 | 3,323,940 |

[1] This figure refers to the number of fixed penalty tickets issued and paid. From 1 April to 31 October 2000 the fixed penalty was £40.00, this was increased to £60.00 on 1 November 2000.

## Transport: Planning

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make it his policy to ensure that any planning application for a major transport matter will continue to be subject to the public inquiry system that has hitherto operated until such time as the relevant national planning statement has been agreed by Parliament. [306875]

**Mr. Khan:** The Government intend that the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) established under the Planning Act 2008 will deal with applications for nationally significant transport projects, as defined by that Act, with effect from 1 March 2010, with the aim of delivering decisions in a more timely, efficient and predictable way. As part of the process of examining such applications, the IPC will consider evidence from interested parties and will where it considers appropriate hold open hearings at which oral evidence can be given. Until the relevant National Policy Statement has been designated, the final decisions on such applications will be taken by the relevant Secretary of State, on the basis of the IPC's recommendation.

## Underground Railways: Tyne and Wear

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his agreement is required before the Tyne and Wear Metro concession is awarded. [306515]

**Mr. Khan:** Nexus, the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive, as the procuring authority, do not require the agreement of the Secretary of State to award a contract for the concession for the operation of the Tyne and Wear Metro. Nexus are, however, seeking the Department's commitment to provide funding support towards the operating costs of the Metro before they award such a contract.

## OLYMPICS

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what payments the Olympic Delivery Authority has made to Mandate/AS Biss in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305107]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has a programme of active engagement across central, regional, devolved, and local government.

To assist this process it has used the services of Mandate Communications, jointly with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), to provide research, administrative and event management support. This contract was competitively tendered. Over the last 12 months the ODA spend with Mandate was £51,634.82 excluding VAT.

It is not possible to provide a copy of the contract as it is a joint contract with LOCOG, which is a private company.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 976W, on departmental public relations, which public relations consultancy was hired; for what purpose; and what consideration was given to undertaking the activity using Government press officers. [305168]

**Tessa Jowell:** Fleishman-Hillard Group Limited were procured to provide a consultancy service, which included research and communications advice.

Government Press Officers were not considered for this role as the service required did not involve media work and was therefore outside press officers expertise.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics who is responsible for the planning of sports events in the Olympic Park after the London 2012 Olympics. [305791]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Olympic Park Legacy Company is responsible for developing and implementing plans for the use and regeneration of the Olympic Park site after the Games. This work will include planning for sporting events in the Park in the post-games period.

### Olympic Games 2012: River Thames

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will make an assessment of the economic effects on businesses of the closure of sections of the River Thames for the duration of the rowing events at the London 2012 Olympic Games. [303925]

**Tessa Jowell:** No decision has been made to close any section of the River Thames for the duration of the rowing events at Dorney Lake, Windsor during either the Olympic Games or the Paralympic Games in 2012.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for staging the event and is keen to keep the river open. Should it become necessary to close any part of the river, all interested parties will be consulted and economic effects evaluated.

## WALES

### Chief Information Officer

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what pay band his Department's chief information officer (CIO) is employed; whethef the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307556]

**Mr. Hain:** As the Wales Office obtains its IT services through the Ministry of Justice, my Department does not have a chief information officer.

### Christmas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305636]

**Mr. Hain:** My Department has purchased two Christmas trees each year since December 2007, prior to this we were gifted two trees each year from Wales Forestry Commission.

In 2007-08 and 2008-09 we purchased Christmas trees through the Ministry of Justice, from a sustainable source, at a cost of £120 and £210 respectively.

In December this year we purchased our trees from a sustainable source in South Wales for £300.

Since 2006-07 all trees have been disposed of through our recycling contract.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [306690]

**Mr. Hain:** As a small Department with only two offices we do not budget separately for Christmas trees. Their expenditure is included with the general office supplies.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305673]

**Mr. Hain:** Nil.

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305856]

**Mr. Hain:** In the last three years, civil servants in my Department have only attended one overseas ministerial conference, for e-Inclusion, in November 2008. The cost to the public purse was £275.90.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306071]

**Mr. Hain:** None.

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what redesigns of websites operated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such redesign was. [306167]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office redesigned its website in February 2008 at a cost of £10,500.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertainment in the last 12 months. [305529]

**Mr. Hain:** In the past 12 months my Department has spent £308.86 on alcohol and £1,851 on entertainment. The costs for the alcohol and the majority of the entertainment were for hosting two ministerial receptions. The additional entertainment expenditure was for hosting a tea party for Latch, a Welsh children's cancer charity.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305526]

**Mr. Hain:** In the last three years my Department has spent the following on:

*(a) Ministerial photo shoots:*

2006-07—£0
2007-08—£1,133.88
2008-09—£546.25

*(b) Production of videos in which Ministers appear:*

£0

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the *(a)* subject and *(b)* location of each away day was. [306407]

**Mr. Hain:** In the last 12 months my Department has spent £597 on an away day for policy branch to plan for the year ahead. The away day was held in Cardiff.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305654]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office does not keep records in this form, and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Out of Area Treatment

**Mr. Keetch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many patients resident in England have received medical *(a)* treatment and *(b)* consultation in Wales in each year since 1997. [306513]

**Mr. Hain:** The following figures represent the published total number of all non-Welsh residents admitted for treatment in Welsh trusts for the periods 1999-2000 to 2008-09 but exclude out-patients. Reliable data prior to 1999 are not available. It is not currently possible to provide information on non-Welsh residents treated as out-patients at Welsh trusts. In the time available it has not proved possible to separate out the number of English residents treated as in-patients at Welsh Trusts but I will write to the hon. Member with this information as soon it is available and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

| *Period* | *Number of patients* |
|---|---:|
| 1999-2000 | 9,890 |
| 2000-01 | 9,829 |
| 2001-02 | 10,689 |
| 2002-03 | 10,491 |
| 2003-04 | 10,539 |
| 2004-05 | 10,340 |
| 2005-06 | 12,671 |
| 2006-07 | 12,671 |
| 2007-08 | 12,537 |
| 2008-09 | 11,468 |

The information is drawn from tables available at

http://www.infoandstats.wales.nhs.uk/home.cfm?orgid=869

Due to a change in the procedures for recording the information figures from 2005 onwards include day-case patients that may have been excluded from statistics in earlier years.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Birds: East of England

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the report commissioned from the Farm and Wildlife Advisory Group by Natural England into the effect of the proposal to re-introduce sea eagles to East Anglia. [306017]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** There are no plans to publish the Suffolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) report in isolation, but the proposed management package will be made publicly available, as part of the consultation that will be undertaken before any decision to proceed with the reintroduction is made. The consultation is planned to occur before March 2010. Although the development of the management options is not yet complete, Natural England will make available a copy of the, as yet unfinished, FWAG report to interested parties on request, and I will ensure the hon. Member receives a copy.

### Commission for Rural Communities: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what public relations companies the Commission for Rural Communities has hired in the last three years; at what cost; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract between the Commission and each such company. [305296]

**Dan Norris:** The following figures set out the Commission for Rural Communities' (CRC) spend on public relations companies over the last three years, 1 April 2007 to 31 October 2009.

| | *Total (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 1,697.58 |
| 2008-09 | 45,935.65 |
| 2009-10 | 26,938.44 |
| Grand total | 74,571.67 |

CRC has contracted with the following bodies:

Pam Beddard PR (south west)

Navigator PR (north east, north west and Yorkshire and the Humber)

Kendalls (east of England)

Aura PR (east Midlands)

Rhian French Communications (south east)

Danks Cockburn Public Relations (west Midlands)

The increase in 2008-09 was largely due to the preparation and publication during that year of the CRC's "State of the Countryside" report. The CRC has used public relations companies to support activities relating to the gathering of evidence and the launching and dissemination of reports, research and guidance, particularly at a regional level.

Due to commercial sensitivity and constraints CRC will not be placing copies of the contracts in the Library.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what public affairs companies the Commission for Rural Communities has engaged in the last three years; at what cost and for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments were made. [305753]

**Dan Norris:** The Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) contracted one public affairs company, Connect Public Affairs, to provide events management and communications support in respect of the CRC's activities at the 2007 and 2008 party conferences. The cost was as follows:

| | *Total (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 11,889.88 |
| 2008-09 | 25,329.83 |
| 2009-10 | 0 |
| Grand total | 37,219.71 |

Due to commercial sensitivity and constraints CRC will not be placing these contracts in the Library.

### Common Land: Property Development

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes he plans to propose to guidelines on town and village greens to prevent their application to land which already has planning permission for development. [305743]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA recently received the final report of research into the registration of new town or village greens: "Study of registered town and village greens and the attitudes towards applications". A summary of the research, together with the final report, is available on the DEFRA website.

The findings of the research, as well as feedback from local authorities and others, lead me to conclude that there is sufficient evidence to justify a review of the existing system, with a view to exploring possible changes. Therefore, DEFRA plans to consult in spring 2010 on whether there is a need for reform of the registration system, and the options for reform that exist.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the rules of his Department and its agencies are on the use of work computers for personal communication. [306705]

**Dan Norris:** Personal computers, email and other DEFRA IT facilities are provided primarily for work related purposes. A reasonable level of personal use of the work email account is permitted providing that:

the sending or receipt of personal email messages does not interfere with work commitments;

the email messages do not constitute any misuse of email, e.g. downloading or forwarding chain mail, or material of a pornographic, sexist, racist or derogatory nature;

staff do not use the departmental email system for any kind of private business or to raise money for themselves or anyone else. To use email in connection with fund-raising activities for a recognised charity, staff must first consult about the propriety aspects;

the email messages could not adversely affect DEFRA's reputation.

DEFRA agencies have similar rules in place for the use of work computers for personal communication.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in each of the last three financial years. [303770]

**Dan Norris:** During the 2009-10 financial year (from April to November 2009), £11,703.61 was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers within the Department. This figure includes all cash reimbursed expenses and those claimed on corporate credit cards for travel and subsistence. It would incur disproportionate cost to identify other minor expenses on corporate credit cards.

We are unable to provide figures for 2006-08 due to disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments the National Forest has made to Cavendish Communications and Cavendish Public Affairs in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305426]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** In the last 12 months the National Forest Company has made payments amounting to £16,997.80 to Cavendish Place Communications for advice on communication with cross-parliamentary audiences, necessary for the delivery of the National Forest Delivery Plan 2009-14. There is no contract in place with Cavendish Public Affairs.

Due to commercial sensitivity and constraints, the National Forest Company will not be placing copies of contracts in the Library.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments the Waste and Resources Action Programme has made to Fishburn Hedges in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305427]

**Dan Norris:** Following a competitive tender, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) contracted Fishburn Hedges to develop and deliver communications support across five separate areas of work. This has included three highly successful nationwide consumer campaigns:

Recycle Now, which has delivered a step change in recycling by UK households resulting in more than two thirds of households recycling as a way of life.

Love Food Hate Waste, which has highlighted the problem of food waste and helped cut around 160,000 tonnes of food waste, and saved consumers more than £400 million a year, preventing 725,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases being emitted.

Home Composting Campaign, which has contributed to selling over two million compost bins in England and Scotland which are estimated to divert over 260,000 tonnes of organic waste each year.

In addition, Fishburn Hedges provided support to pilot campaigns in 12 local authority areas to encourage the recycling of small waste electrical products, funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, as well as helping a WRAP programme promoting recycling to schools and their pupils.

All the communications material generated for these campaigns is made freely available to local authorities, allowing them to reduce their costs.

WRAP also used Fishburn Hedges to advise on how to raise awareness among senior local authority officers and elected members of the support on waste prevention and recycling services it offers.

In the last 12 months (from 9 December 2008 to 8 December 2009) Fishburn Hedges was paid a total of £959,000 for this work.

Fishburn Hedges was contracted by WRAP. The terms of the contract are subject to commercial confidentiality.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments British Waterways has made to *(a)* Four Communications, *(b)* Cavendish Communications and *(c)* Atherton Associates in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each contract under which such payments were made. [305436]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** British Waterways has advised that payments made in the 12 months since 1 November 2008 (excluding VAT) to Four Communications, Cavendish Place Communications and Atherton Associates are as follows:

*(a)* Four Communications £39,805.53 for public affairs support for British Waterways London. The contract was not renewed.

*(b)* Cavendish Place Communication £61,627.57 for public affairs support. This is a rolling contract.

*(c)* Atherton Associates None.

Due to commercial sensitivity and constraints, British Waterways will not be placing copies of contracts in the Library.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments the Commission for Rural Communities has made to Connect Public Affairs in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305437]

**Dan Norris:** DEFRA sponsors the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC)—a non-departmental public body which acts as an independent rural adviser, advocate and watchdog, with a particular focus on social disadvantage and economic underperformance. The CRC is tasked to advise and challenge the Government and delivery bodies at all levels to improve performance and embed best practice. The functions of the CRC are specified in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

During the last 12 months, the CRC has paid Connect Public Affairs £25,329.83 for events management and communications support relating to the CRC's activities in raising awareness of the needs of rural people, in line with the NERC Act, at all three major 2008 party conferences. The CRC adhered to Cabinet Office "NDPBs: Attendance at Party Conferences" guidance in relation to these events. No contracts have been entered into and no payments made during the current financial year.

Due to commercial sensitivity and constraints, I am unable to place a copy of the contract between the CRC and Connect Public Affairs in the Library.

### Flood Control

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what decisions have been made on amending emergency regulations to increase the minimum amount of water to be provided in an emergency in accordance with recommendation 40 of the Pitt Report. [305072]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Sir Michael Pitt's report on learning the lessons from the 2007 floods included the recommendation that DEFRA should amend emergency regulations to increase the minimum amount of water to be provided in an emergency, in order to reflect reasonable needs during a longer-term loss of mains supply.

The Government's response, published on 17 December, supported changes in response to this, and supported all Sir Michael's recommendations.

Discussions have taken place with the water sector, the Drinking Water Inspectorate, the Health Protection Agency, the Consumer Council for Water, Ofwat and the Welsh Assembly Government. We expect to provide updated guidance to water companies on the minimum amount of water to be provided in an emergency before the new year.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of homes at risk of *(a)* coastal and *(b)* inland flooding in each region. [305228]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The following table shows the number of homes at risk of river and tidal flooding in each Environment Agency region.

| | *Residential* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *EA Water Management region* | *Tidal* | *River* | *Both* | *Total* |
| Anglian | 179 | 109 | 9 | 297 |
| Midlands | 22 | 175 | 5 | 201 |
| North East | 148 | 111 | 5 | 264 |
| North West | 41 | 127 | 2 | 169 |
| South West | 50 | 64 | 27 | 140 |
| Southern | 113 | 38 | 5 | 156 |
| Thames | 299 | 187 | 5 | 492 |
| Wales | 54 | 81 | 24 | 158 |
| Total | 906 | 892 | 81 | 1,879 |

*Note:* Figures are shown in thousands of properties.

The Environment Agency's "Flooding in England" report published in June 2009 estimated that, in addition to the above, a further 2.8 million homes and businesses in England are at risk of surface water flooding. This was an estimate to assess the scale of the risk and was not broken down by region.

### Fly Tipping: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of incidents of fly-tipping in the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last three years. [306896]

**Dan Norris:** The number of incidents of fly-tipping cleared by local authorities is reported each year to DEFRA's Flycapture database and published on DEFRA's website.

The number of incidents of fly-tipping on public land reported as having been dealt with by the London borough of Bexley in each of the last three years is shown in the following table. There is currently no estimate of the number of fly-tipping incidents occurring on private land as these are the responsibility of the landowner to clear.

| | *Total number of incidents* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 1,185 |
| 2007-08 | 1,086 |
| 2006-07 | 581 |

### Food Supply

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department allocated to research on food sustainability in each year since 2001; and how much such funding it has allocated in 2009 to date. [302477]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Between 2001 and 2009, DEFRA has invested in a wide range of research activities associated with food sustainability (including animal health and welfare). Total spend (in millions) allocated since 2001 is shown in the following table. The table also shows the funding of related food and farming R and D by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council where figures are available.

*£ million*

| | *DEFRA R and D spend on food sustainability*[1] | *BBSRC funding for related food and farming R and D* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 82 | — |
| 2002-03 | 81 | 132 |
| 2003-04 | 75 | 129 |
| 2004-05 | 79 | 138 |
| 2005-06 | 78 | 150 |
| 2006-07 | 74 | 171 |
| 2007-08 | 70 | 185 |
| 2008-09 | 65 | 189 |
| 2009-10 (provisional) | 65 | |
| Total of main sponsors for farming and food | 669 | 1,094 |

[1] These figures are taken from the DEFRA Science Information System database.

### Forests: Disease Control

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps he has taken to reduce the spread of pests and diseases of woodland trees. [305626]

**Dan Norris** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]*: The Forestry Commission, through its Forest Research Agency, is carrying out research into a number of pests and diseases of trees including, more recently, increased investigation into Acute Oak Decline. It is also continuing collaborative research into a better understanding of the diseases caused by Phytophthora ramorum and P. kernoviae as part of the five-year programme announced by my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy) on 3 March 2009.

The Forestry Commission has also recently set up a Biosecurity Programme Board with representation from key partners in the forest industry sector. The board will advise the Forestry Commissioners on how best to deliver a programme of protecting trees and woodlands against pests and diseases. This will be set out in a new Plant Health Strategy the Commission is helping to develop which it intends to publish in 2010.

### Hydrofluorocarbons

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the amount of hydrofluorocarbon emissions which would be saved by *(a)* reducing the use of hydrofluorocarbons through reducing leakage and improving energy efficiency and *(b)* the introduction of a widespread ban; and if he will make a statement. [305884]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The impact assessment (IA) for the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2009 published in February, considered the impacts of the action taken to regulate hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) through the EC F Gas Regulation and 10 associated Commission Regulations. The principal objective of these measures is to contain, prevent and thereby reduce emissions of HFCs. The IA considered both the "direct" savings relating to reductions in HFC emissions and also the "indirect" savings resulting from reduced energy consumption. A copy of the IA is available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/fgas/documents/impact-assessment.pdf

The introduction of a widespread ban on HFC use would lead to significant global reductions in HFC emissions that would otherwise not occur. However, the timing and scale of reductions would depend on how such a ban was implemented.

### Hydrofluorocarbons: Government Departments

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress by departments in reducing the use of hydrofluorocarbons on their estate; and if he will make a statement. [305882]

**Dan Norris:** The Government's view is that the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) with high global warming potential is not sustainable in the long term. The Government's "Buy Sustainable: Quick Wins" procurement standards state that HFCs should only be used where other safe, technically feasible, cost-effective and more environmentally acceptable alternatives do not exist. All central Government Departments are required to comply with these procurement standards. Support for delivery and compliance with "Quick Wins" by central Government Departments is overseen by the Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement in the Office of Government Commerce.

Data are not collected centrally on HFC use or emissions but the Government are currently reviewing the targets for the sustainable operations on the Government estate, and are considering expanding the scope of the climate change targets to include the six key greenhouse gases, including HFCs, in departmental carbon budget allocations for estate and operations from 2012 onwards.

### Metals: Waste Disposal

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to extend the end of waste criteria for the purposes of including recycled metal. [306334]

**Dan Norris:** The point at which scrap metal is recycled and ceases to be waste has been set by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in cases C-444/00 (Mayer Parry) and C-457/02 (Niselli). The practical effect of these judgments is that scrap metal does not cease to be waste until it is reprocessed into products such as ingots, sheets or coils of steel. It is not legally feasible for DEFRA to adopt criteria which purport to set the end-of-waste point for scrap metal at a point earlier than that set by the ECJ. However, the European Commission has announced its intention to bring forward EU-wide end-of-waste criteria for ferrous, aluminium and copper scrap metal using the powers available to the Commission under article 6 of the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC). UK officials have participated in the working groups established by the Commission to develop the technical aspects of proposals for ferrous and aluminium scrap.

### Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list all guidance issued to Natural England under section 16 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, giving the date when each was published. [306016]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Section 16 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 gives the Secretary of State power to give directions to Natural England. No directions have been issued to Natural England under this section of the Act.

### Organic Farming

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been paid to farmers migrants under the Organic Farming Scheme since 2003. [304589]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We do not hold information as to whether any payments made under the organic farming scheme were made to migrant farmers.

### Origin Marking: Israel

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason guidance to retailers on the voluntary labelling of products from Israeli settlements in the West Bank no longer appears on his Department's website. [304732]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The earlier guidance on labelling goods from the West Bank was felt to be in need of revision because it did not offer assistance in the specific matter of distinguishing those goods which were of Israeli settlement origin from those which were from Palestinian producers. As I explained in the debate on 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 106WH, the Government hope to be able to make an announcement shortly on this matter.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the contribution of the Minister of State of 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 106WH, if he will make it his policy to include in the guidance on the voluntary labelling of produce imported from Golan the description "Made in Occupied Syrian Land". [305253]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs tabled a written ministerial statement on 10 December 2009 concerning technical advice on the labelling of produce from the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). That advice has been issued in response to consumer and retailer concern about a lack of clarity on whether such produce comes from Israeli settlements or Palestinian producers. The situation in Israeli occupied Golan is quite different: we are not aware that there is such confusion between different producers, and we have not received representations from consumers or retailers. Therefore, the Government have not addressed the issue of produce imported from the Israeli occupied Golan in the technical advice to which I have referred.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made on developing guidance on the labelling of food products sold in England which are produced in Israeli settlements in the West Bank; and if he will make a statement. [305714]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]*: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs tabled a written ministerial statement on 10 December 2009 concerning technical advice on the labelling of produce from the occupied Palestinian territories. That advice has been issued in response to consumer and retailer concern about a lack of clarity on whether such produce comes from Israeli settlements or Palestinian producers.

### Rural Development Programme

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by Natural England on administering the Regional Development Programme for England (RDPE) on behalf of his Department in the last 12 months; and whether any of the costs within Natural England's Annual report are attributable to the RDPE. [306018]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Natural England was allocated £13,600,000 in 2008-09 to cover its direct costs associated with delivering the Rural Development Programme for England under the common agricultural policy. In addition to this, £22,400,000 was allocated to Natural England to cover the costs of DEFRA's Genesis IT system which is the IT system to manage and administer the Rural Development Programme for England. This running cost includes depreciation, cost of capital and third party support.

These costs are all given in Natural England's annual report.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much matched funding and other Treasury funding has been committed to the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE); and what the *(a)* consequences to date and *(b)* estimated consequences are of the change in the exchange rate of the euro to sterling on (i) amount of sterling to be funded from UK sources and (ii) the total amounts available for each Axis 1, 2 and 3 of the RDPE. [306019]

**Dan Norris:** The total planned budget for the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) 2007-13, as announced on 29 March 2007, is £3.9 billion.

A higher than planned euro value has contributed to an underspend of the European budget allocated to the programme to date. Under EU regulations, unspent European budget may be rolled forward to be spent in later years and therefore remains as part of the total programme budget. For the remainder of the programme we plan to take advantage of the higher sterling value of the EU budget to contribute to savings in the Exchequer funded element. This will contribute to achieving the saving of £92 million in 2012-13 announced in the pre-Budget report[1] to be delivered from efficiencies in Environmental Protection and RDPE. This saving can be achieved within the total of £3.9 billion planned for the programme.

[1] http://prebudget.treasury.gov.uk/about_pbr.htm (paragraph 6.45)

### Scientists

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions he has met *(a)* the Government chief scientific adviser and *(b)* his Department's chief scientific adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303961]

**Dan Norris** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]*: The Secretary of State has had no formal meeting with the Government's chief scientific adviser in the past 12 months, but has had the opportunity to meet him at various committees and events they have both attended. The Secretary of State meets DEFRA's chief scientific adviser regularly.

### Waste and Resources Action Programme: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 15W, on Waste and Resources Action Programme, if he will undertake an investigation into the appropriateness of the Waste and Resources Action Programme hiring Chelgate public affairs to lobby hon. Members and noble Lords. [305831]

**Dan Norris:** Chelgate was contracted by WRAP for a period of six months to organise a series of meetings with parliamentarians from all three major parties, where WRAP explained its role and functions. No lobbying took place at any time.

### Waste Disposal: EU Law

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2009; for what reasons he does not plan to review the regulations before 2013; and if he will make a statement. [305010]

**Dan Norris:** We received extensive responses to two public consultations on the review of exemptions, the second being on the draft Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2009, which is due to come into force on 6 April 2010 but will not, subject to transitional provisions, be fully implemented until October 2013.

We are committed to introducing a system to regularly review and amend exempt waste operations in the future. We have suggested that the first review should be conducted in 2013, to coincide with the end of the transitional period for existing operations to have re-registered or applied for an environmental permit.

This will provide the opportunity to draw on operational experience to assess how well the revised exemptions are working. However, DEFRA would consider specific amendments to the exemptions if it becomes necessary to do so.

We are currently consulting publicly on draft Government guidance to accompany the Regulations. Chapter 14 of the draft guidance sets out proposed criteria and considerations for future reviews.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what methodology his Department used to estimate the costs for policy option three as referred to in the Explanatory Memorandum to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2009. [305011]

**Dan Norris:** An explanation of the methodology used to estimate the costs for policy option three is provided in chapters six and seven of the impact assessment which accompanies the Explanatory Memorandum to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2009.

These chapters explain the risk based approach adopted during the development of the revised exemptions and give an overview of the types of administrative and direct costs incurred under each option.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of metals recycling businesses which will experience a net financial *(a)* benefit and *(b)* cost as a result of implementation of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2009. [305012]

**Dan Norris:** Based on the available information, we believe that around half of the metal recycling operations (c460) operating under the current chargeable paragraph 45 exemption from environmental permitting would continue to do so if the proposed tonnages applied.

Under the revised regime those operations which remain exempt or could register for an exemption for the first time would no longer be subject to either the initial registration fee (currently £724) or annual re-renewal fee of £272. The remainder will incur additional costs associated with applying for an environmental permit which are likely to exceed the current registration fee.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to issue guidance on individual exemptions that arise as a result of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2009. [305013]

**Dan Norris:** DEFRA is currently consulting on guidance to accompany the amendments being made by the 2009 regulations and is expecting to publish a final version in early 2010.

### Water: EU Law

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of rivers he expects to meet the criteria for the classification of good ecological status under the European water framework directive by 2015. [306883]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The proportion of rivers expected to meet the criteria for the classification of good ecological status under the European water framework directive in England by 2015 is 29 per cent. This is as a result of measures implemented through the first set of River Basin Management Plans, to be published this month.

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that it meets the requirements of the European water framework directive by the deadlines set in the implementation timetable for that directive. [306884]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To date, we have met all the requirements of the European water framework directive as set out in the implementation timetable. The next key deadline is the publication of the River Basin Management Plans which we intend to publish on or before 22 December 2009, as required by the directive.

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the final river basin management plans will include mechanisms relating to diffuse pollution. [306885]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** There are a number of mechanisms within the river basin management plans relating to diffuse pollution from agricultural sources, and non-agricultural sources. Non-agricultural sources can include run-off from transport, on-street activities such as car washing, industrial estates, forestry and leisure industries and discharges from contaminated land and disused mines. Examples of the mechanisms include the England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative which provides advice to reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture and the pesticides statutory code of practice.

There are also a significant number of investigations contained within the plans which will enable a greater understanding of the sources and causes of diffuse pollution and will provide the evidence base to require further action.

In addition we will continue to demonstrate our commitment and bring forward significant work including Water Protection Zones, sustainable drainage systems, and deal with misconnections into the surface water sewer network.

Full details of mechanisms for diffuse pollution will be published on the Environment Agency's website at:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

on 22 December 2009, in Annex F "Mechanisms for action".

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many rivers he expects to be subject to a reduction of abstraction pressure during the first round of implementation of river basin management plans. [306886]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** During the first round of river basin management plans, action will be taken at 26 sites which will protect habitats directive sites.

Through developing the river basin management plans we have identified areas where we need to undertake further investigations to increase our certainty on the causal links between abstraction pressure and the achievement of ecological status. The Environment Agency will investigate approximately 300 sites where the abstraction pressure is greatest to improve its understanding, and where appropriate propose further action to tackle the problems during the first cycle.

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to produce implementation plans under the EU Water Framework Directive for steps to be taken at local level in respect of that Directive. [306887]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Environment Agency is the competent authority in respect of the water framework directive, and it has the responsibility for engagement and developing plans at the local level.

In some places there will be added value from adopting more detailed catchment plans to help deliver River Basin Management Plan objectives during the planning cycles and it supports the pilot project on the River Kennett to produce an implementation plan.

The Environment Agency will share the knowledge gained through this pilot with other River Basin Liaison Panels, to help identify other catchments that could benefit from a similar approach.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what payments the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission has made to Grayling Political Strategy in the last 12 months; for what purposes such payments were made; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305251]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

The Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission has not made any payments to Grayling Political Strategy in the last three years.

### Administration of Justice

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent prog[illegible] has been made on devolution of responsibility for criminal justice and policing in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [306277]

**Mr. Woodward:** Progress continues to be made towards the devolution of policing and justice. A financial package has been agreed and a Bill establishing the new Department of Justice has completed its Assembly passage. In addition the First and deputy First Ministers have written to Assembly members as part of a process to identify the new Justice Minister.

### Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry: Expenditure

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 902-04W, on the Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry, under what budget headings the expenditure was incurred in each year. [306630]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following table breaks down the yearly expenditure of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry on the basis of cash spend incurred by the Northern Ireland Office. The costs are divided into six broad categories:

legal costs, which include payments to counsel, inquiry solicitors, and all legal costs for witnesses and family representatives;

tribunal salaries and expenses, including judges' salaries and travel and accommodation costs, as well as allowances for the judges;

accommodation, which includes rent and rates for all inquiry offices and venues including costs to facilitate hearings in London;

IT, which includes cost of IT equipment and computers, consultants, and management of inquiry IT systems;

staffing, which includes salaries of all staff (both temporary and permanent), and travel and accommodation costs for staff;

administration costs, which include the running costs of the inquiry offices, cost of arrangements for publishing the report, payments to experts, and other general administration costs.

| *Type of cost* | *Expenditure (£) (NIO funding)* |
|---|---|
| *2009-10 (to end of September 2009)* | |
| Legal costs | 388,160 |
| Tribunal salaries and expenses | 138,667 |
| Accommodation | 137,570 |
| IT | 188,632 |
| Staffing | 237,255 |
| Administration costs | 148,029 |
| Total for 2009-10 | 1,237,650 |
| | |
| *2008-09* | |
| Legal costs | 1,177,297 |
| Tribunal salaries and expenses | 657,125 |
| Accommodation | 1,290,280 |
| IT | 678,219 |

| *Type of cost* | *Expenditure (£) (NIO funding)* |
|---|---|
| Staffing | 533,869 |
| Administration costs | 361,248 |
| Total for 2008-09 | 4,867,038 |
| | |
| *2007-08* | |
| Legal costs | 1,714,001 |
| Tribunal salaries and expenses | 700,106 |
| Accommodation | 909,113 |
| IT | 819,702 |
| Staffing | 520,795 |
| Administration costs | 310,337 |
| Total for 2007-08 | 4,973,984 |
| | |
| *2006-07* | |
| Legal costs | 6,013,519 |
| Tribunal salaries and expenses | 709,636 |
| Accommodation | 908,562 |
| IT | 843,934 |
| Staffing | 478,300 |
| Administration costs | 472,921 |
| Total for 2006-07 | 9,518,864 |
| | |
| *2005-06* | |
| Legal costs | 3,108,259 |
| Tribunal salaries and expenses | 719,661 |
| Accommodation | 1,364,792 |
| IT | 910,273 |
| Staffing | 714,833 |
| Administration costs | 344,160 |
| Total for 2005-06 | 7,161,986 |
| | |
| *2004-05* | |
| Legal costs | 7,722,725 |
| Tribunal salaries and expenses | 744,526 |
| Accommodation | 1,673,794 |
| IT | 2,561,218 |
| Staffing | 1,008,623 |
| Administration costs | 662,504 |
| Total for 2004-05 | 14,373,390 |

In addition to costs incurred by the Northern Ireland Office, the Ministry of Defence has also incurred £3.4 million since January 2005 primarily in relation to legal representation.

The total cost of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry to the end of September 2009 is £188.7 million, comprising £153.2 million incurred by the Northern Ireland Office and £35.6 million incurred by the Ministry of Defence.

## Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice for Northern Ireland: Stratagem

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what payments the Criminal Justice Inspection has made to Stratagem in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305423]

**Paul Goggins:** This is an operational matter for the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland, which operates independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Member to write to Dr. Michael Maguire, the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland.

## Crimes of Violence

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many violent crimes were committed against taxi drivers in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [305035]

**Paul Goggins:** That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

## Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305491]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table provides details of the number of requests received by the Northern Ireland Office in 2008 and the number of requests which received a substantive response within 20 working days.

*2008*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Requests received | 179 |
| Requests which received a substantive response within 20 working days | 132 |

*Note:*
A further 26 requests were answered within permitted extensions to the 20 day deadline under the Freedom of Information Act; specifically, where the deadline for response was extended to allow consideration of the balance of the public interest test.

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has committed to publishing quarterly and annual updates in relation to departmental performance under FOI, including information on both the volume and outcome of requests. The annual statistics for 2008 can be found in the Libraries of both Houses and on the MOJ website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

## Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what redesigns of websites operated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such redesign was. [306166]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following table shows the cost and date for redesigns of websites since June 2007.

| *Website* | *(i) Cost (£)* | *(ii) Date* |
|---|---|---|
| Organised Crime Task Force | 6,825 | November 2009 |
| Youth Justice Agency | 4,802.61 | November 2007 |
| Forensic Science NI | 6,187.50 | October 2009 |

## Departmental Telephone Services

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305215]

**Paul Goggins:** The requested information is set out in the following table. It is applicable to the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) core Department only.

| | *Operate or sponsor* | *Call received to number in the last 12 months* | *Alternative number charged at the BT local rate available* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Telephone lines with prefix 0870* | | | |
| *Telephone lines with prefix 0845* | | | |
| Phoneline for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence 0845 1228609 | National Phoneline is sponsored by Home Office for service for England and Wales. NIO sponsors service for NI callers | 71 calls received from NI residents (during period 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009 i.e. period for which stats are available) | No |
| Mentally Disordered Victims Information Scheme 0845 6025460 | NIO | Less than 10 calls per year | No |
| *Telephone lines with prefix 0800* | | | |
| 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline 0800 9171414 | NIO sponsors in partnership with DHSSPS and NIHE | 30,054 calls (during period 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009 i.e. period for which stats are available) | No |

## Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305301]

**Paul Goggins:** Out of the 115 named day questions received for 2009 to date (as at 4 December), the Northern Ireland Office has answered 89 questions substantively on the day named. This equates to 77 per cent. The following table provides a breakdown per month.

| | *Total received* | *Answered substantively* |
|---|---|---|
| January | 30 | 23 |
| February | 4 | 3 |
| March | 13 | 13 |
| April | 7 | 7 |
| May | 5 | 3 |
| June | 13 | 6 |
| July | 16 | 15 |
| August | — | — |
| September | 2 | 2 |
| October | 10 | 9 |
| November | 12 | 7 |
| December | 3 | 1 |
| Total | 115 | 89 |

Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the "Guide to Parliamentary Work" at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of parliamentary questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307549]

**Paul Goggins:** Out of the 122 named day questions received for 2008-09 to date (as at 4 December), the Northern Ireland Office has answered 94 questions substantively on the day named. This equates to 77 per cent. The following table provides a breakdown per month.

| | *Total received* | *Answered substantively* |
|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | |
| December | 11 | 9 |
| *2009* | | |
| January | 30 | 23 |
| February | 4 | 3 |
| March | 13 | 13 |
| April | 7 | 7 |
| May | 5 | 3 |
| June | 13 | 6 |
| July | 16 | 15 |
| August | | |
| September | 2 | 2 |
| October | 10 | 9 |
| November | 9 | 4 |
| Total | 122 | 94 |

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### Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what payments the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People has made to Chambré Public Affairs in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305159]

**Mr. Woodward:** The sponsorship of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People is a matter for the devolved Administration.

### Security Forces Collusion With Loyalist Terrorists Enquiry: Stress

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether a member of the Stevens Inquiry team has been awarded a payment in respect of a work-related stress condition while working in Northern Ireland. [305481]

**Mr. Woodward:** That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable, since Sir John Stevens' investigation was funded by the Police Service for Northern Ireland. I have asked the Chief Constable to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Young People: Driving Offences

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many school pupils in Northern Ireland were convicted of *(a)* a motoring offence that resulted in a fatality and *(b)* careless driving in each of the last two years. [305016]

**Paul Goggins:** The information is not available in the format requested as it is not possible to determine from conviction data the number of offenders convicted of motoring offences causing death and offences related to careless driving, who were school pupils. It is only possible to give the number of persons aged 18 and under (at date of offence), of whom school pupils may be a subset, convicted for these offences. Figures for these are documented in the following table.

Data cover the calendar years 2005 and 2006 (the latest year for which figures are available) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

*Number aged 18 and under[1] convicted of motoring offences causing death and careless driving/driving without due care and attention 2005-06*

| | *Motoring offences causing death* | *Careless driving/driving without due care and attention[2, 3, 4]* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 1 | 130 |
| 2006 | 2 | 144 |

[1] Based on the age at date of offence.
[2] 2005 figure includes three convictions for the offence 'driving without reasonable consideration for others' and one for 'causing grievous bodily injury' by driving carelessly with excess alcohol'.
[3] 2006 figure includes one conviction for the offence 'driving without reasonable consideration for others'.
[4] Excludes careless driving offences causing death and dangerous driving offences.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the House of Commons Commission has engaged any *(a)* public relations firms and *(b)* consultancies in the last 12 months. [305173]

**Nick Harvey:** There have been no additional engagements since my answer on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1102W.

### Speaker's Adviser

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to the answer of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1039-40W, on the Speaker, for how many days Mr. Speaker's special adviser has worked since his appointment. [305839]

**Nick Harvey:** The Speaker's special adviser has worked for 34 days up to 30 November 2009.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts Council England: Administration

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England has spent on administration costs in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [306829]

**Margaret Hodge:** Information on Arts Council England's administration costs is published in their annual accounts for 2008-09. These are the most recently available data.

### Arts Council England: Conditions of Employment

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 374W, on Arts Council England: reorganisation, how much will be spent on *(a)* early retirement, *(b)* redundancy payments and *(c)* increases in pay for staff as part of the restructuring; and if he will make a statement. [306523]

**Margaret Hodge:** This is a matter for Arts Council England, which operates independently of Government.

I have therefore asked Arts Council England's chief executive to consider the question raised by the Member for West Bromwich, East and write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Arts Council England on *(a)* the final severance and *(b)* pension arrangements for outgoing senior employees of the organisation. [306687]

**Margaret Hodge:** Final severance and pension arrangements are operational matters for Arts Council England. I have had no such discussions.

### Arts Council England: Finance

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the size of Arts Council England's pension fund deficit is; what it was in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [306688]

**Margaret Hodge:** Information on Arts Council England's pension fund is published in their annual accounts. Valuations take place every three years and the next is due on 31 March 2010. Issues such as pay and pensions are operational matters for Arts Council England.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding Arts Council England has received from the National Lottery in each of the last five financial years. [306658]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Art Council England's share of proceeds from the national lottery (including investment income) for the last five years was:

| *Financial year* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 169.2 |
| 2005-06 | 171.9 |
| 2006-07 | 149.3 |
| 2007-08 | 151.5 |
| 2008-09[1] | 145.3 |

[1] The figure for 2008-09 is still subject to audit and is the net amount available for distribution after Art Council England's contribution to the Olympics has been taken into account.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding Arts Council England has received from his Department through grant-in-aid in each of the last five financial years. [306659]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following table shows Arts Council England grant-in-aid outturn figures from my Department's published accounts in each of the last five financial years.

| | *Final published outturn (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 369,859 |
| 2005-06 | 409,178 |
| 2006-07 | 427,862 |
| 2007-08 | 422,610 |
| 2008-09 | 436,531 |

### Arts Council England: Pensions

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the pension arrangements are for *(a)* senior staff and *(b)* other employees of Arts Council England; and if he will make a statement. [306827]

**Margaret Hodge:** This is a matter for Arts Council England, which operates independently of Government.

I have therefore asked Arts Council England's chief executive to write to the Member for West Bromwich, East directly.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will meet the Chief Executive of Arts Council England to discuss the organisation's pension fund deficit. [306828]

**Margaret Hodge:** Ministers meet with Arts Council England representatives on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues. However, issues such as pay and pensions are operational matters for Arts Council England.

### Bookmakers: Licensing

**Mr. Caborn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will instruct the Gambling Commission to undertake a study of the effect on betting exchanges of persons operating as unlicensed bookmakers. [305285]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department and the Gambling Commission are aware of concerns about unlicensed individuals allegedly acting in the course of business as bookmakers on betting exchanges. The Government and the commission have made it clear that anyone doing so requires the appropriate licence.

### Copyright: Music

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between Ministers in his Department and *(a)* the Federation Against Copyright Theft and *(b)* the British recorded music industry in the last 12 months. [306023]

**Mr. Simon:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* There has been no correspondence between Ministers in this Department and the Federation Against Copyright Theft in the last 12 months.

*(b)* Copies of eight pieces of correspondence between Ministers in this Department and the British Recorded Music Industry (which we understand to mean the British Phonographic Industries) will be placed in the Library of the House. These do not include correspondence relating to the development of policy which it would be inappropriate to place in the public domain at this time.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have held with representatives from (i) the Federation Against Copyright Theft, (ii) the British recorded music industry and (iii) the Open Rights Group in the last 12 months. [R] [306111][1]

**Mr. Simon:** Ministers have met with representatives from the British recorded music industry (which we understand to mean the British phonographic industries) on six occasions in the last 12 months. Officials were present at two of those meetings. Ministers also met representatives from the Featured Artists Coalition on one occasion. In addition, officials met bilaterally with representatives of the BRMI on three occasions, and were involved in several wider meetings.

Neither Ministers nor officials in my Department have met representatives from the Federation Against Copyright Theft or the Open Rights Group in the last 12 months. However, I had informal discussions with the Open Rights Group at the C&binet Conference held on 26-28 October.

### Departmental Art Works

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on artwork in the last 12 months; and what works of art were purchased. [306448]

**Mr. Simon:** Works of art displayed in my Department are from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions. The most recent details of acquisitions made by the GAC were published on 5 October 2009 and are available on the GAC website:

http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/information/publi[illegible]ns.asp

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305869]

**Mr. Simon:** This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what redesigns of websites operated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been carried out since 27 June 2007; what the cost to the public purse was of each redesign; and when each redesign was conducted. [305954]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department and its agency have not redesigned any websites since 27 June 2007.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff of his Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306708]

**Mr. Simon:** Our redeployment policy only came into effect on 13 May 2009. Thereafter in July *(c)* there were seven members of staff in the redeployment pool. In October *(d)* this reduced to three members of staff in the redeployment pool.

### Departmental Plants

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by his Department on *(a)* cut flowers and *(b)* pot plants in each of the last three years. [306146]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department has spent the following amounts on:

(£)

| | *(a) Cut flowers* | *(b) Pot plants* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 652 | 22,078 |
| 2007-08 | 666 | 24,064 |
| 2008-09 | 594 | 14,431 |

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the National Lottery Commission has made to Hill and Knowton in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [305142]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The National Lottery Commission has advised that during 2009 they made one payment of £1,500.37 to Hill and Knowlton, on 12 March.

No further payments have been made and the commission has no ongoing contract with Hill and Knowlton. All payments made to Hill and Knowlton were in respect of media relations support, strategic communications advice, planning and stakeholder engagement support, primarily for the delivery of the Third Licence Competition. The contract was awarded to Hill and Knowlton after a full competitive tender process.

All contracts are commercially confidential and because of this it would be inappropriate to place a copy in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments VisitBritain has made to Connect Public Affairs in the last 12 months for which figures are available; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [305144]

**Margaret Hodge:** VisitBritain pays £907.38+VAT per calendar month to Connect Public Affairs for a political monitoring and support service. In the last 12 months that totals £10,889+VAT.

VisitBritain inform us that their contract with Connect Public Affairs is commercially confidential, and because of this it would be inappropriate to place a copy in the Libraries of the House as requested.

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[1] *[Official Report, 5 January 2010, Vol. 503, c. 1MC.]*

## Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305513]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department has spent the following amounts on ministerial *(a)* photo shoots and *(b)* video productions during the last two complete financial years:

|  | *(a) Photo shoots* | £<br>*(b) Video productions* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 1,521.76 | 2,579.00 |
| 2008-09 | 1,188.23 | 920.00 |

These figures are exclusive of VAT. Expenditure for 2006-07 is unavailable, due to the way costs were broken down during this period.

Additionally, photography and video content, produced as a part of larger projects, cannot be categorised.

## Departmental Training

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305898]

**Mr. Simon:** This Department has not sent any member of staff on overseas training in the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10, which is the latest period for which figures are available.

## Departmental Travel

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307521]

**Mr. Simon:** Details of away days and conferences are not centrally recorded, and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's accounting system does not record expenditure on away days separately from other staff training and development costs and to identify and summarise these costs for the period would incur disproportionate cost.

The expenditure on conferences within the Department's administration costs for financial years 2005-06 to 2008-09 is set out in the table.

| *Financial year* | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 92,150 |
| 2007-08 | 158,190 |
| 2006-07 | 231,220 |
| 2005-06 | 170,280 |

These figures include conference running costs, room hire, hospitality, accommodation and travel costs of conference speakers.

An analysis of costs by each conference could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of parliamentary questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307551]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department[1] received 502 parliamentary questions tabled for answer on a named day during the parliamentary Session 2008-09. The amount given a substantive reply on the named day was 244 (48.61 per cent.)

My Department endeavours to answer all named day parliamentary questions on the allocated day but where this is not possible we aim to provide a substantive reply at the earliest opportunity possible.

Central guidance on answer parliamentary questions is now available in the 'Guide to Parliamentary Work', at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

[1] Includes figures for named day parliamentary questions tabled to the Minister for the Olympics.

## Gambling Commission: Birmingham

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Gambling Commission paid in staff travel costs in respect of commuting between London and Birmingham in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [305122]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** In the 12 months up to 30 November 2009, the Gambling Commission paid £17,897.52 in staff travel costs in respect of commuting. This figure is in respect of staff on detached duty for commuting between London and Birmingham.

## Government Art Collection

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many items from the Government Art Collection have been loaned to public galleries in each of the past 10 years; and how many items from the collection are located in *(a)* departmental offices, *(b)* ministerial residences, *(c)* offices of non-departmental public bodies, *(d)* public galleries, *(e)* diplomatic missions overseas, *(f)* storage and *(g)* other locations. [306698]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Government Art Collection lent the following number of works of art to public galleries in the last 10 years, both for temporary exhibitions and on a long-term loan basis:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 49 |
| 2001-02 | 45 |
| 2002-03 | 45 |
| 2003-04 | 50 |
| 2004-05 | 44 |
| 2005-06 | 35 |
| 2006-07 | 62 |
| 2007-08 | 96 |
| 2008-09 | 99 |
| 2009 to date | 79 |

*(a)-(g)* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett) to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1045-47W. The Government Art Collection is unable to produce further figures in the time given.

### Government: Assets

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to take steps to prevent *(a)* playing fields, *(b)* other sports facilities and *(c)* libraries being disposed of in the Government's proposed sale of public assets. [304486]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Government's proposed sale of public assets did not include plans to dispose of playing fields, sports facilities and libraries, which are primarily matters for local authorities. Any asset sales would be based on proposals by individual local authorities as central Government do not determine what assets they may wish to sell.

On the subject of playing fields, I would like to outline current protections. Since 1998, any proposed sale of school playing fields by a local authority has required permission from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families. Additionally, local authorities are required to consult Sport England where planning applications affect land used as a playing field in the preceding five years. In April this year these protections were strengthened further by reducing the size of land in question from 0.4 hectares to 0.2 hectares.

### Licensing Laws

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications for licences to sell alcohol by a person who had previously held a licence were refused in each of the last three years because he or she had served alcohol to a person who was inebriated. [305395]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information is not held centrally. The Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Statistical Bulletin collects the number of new personal licence applications which were granted and refused.

It does not, however, break down the reasons for why these were refused.

### National Lottery

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the projections in Table 2.9 of Budget 2009, how much he expects to be in the National Lottery Distribution Fund in each year to 2013-14; and if he will make a statement. [307280]

**Mr. Simon:** Our current estimates for the size of the National Lottery Distribution Fund are:

| | *£ billion* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 1.2 |
| 2010-11 | 0.9 |
| 2011-12 | 0.7 |
| 2012-13 | 0.7 |
| 2013-14 | 0.9 |

All figures are for the year end on 31 March.

### Playing Fields: Schools

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to restrict the sale of school playing fields by local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [302345]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have been asked to reply.

Since the introduction of legislation in 1998, under section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act, all schools and local authorities in England have needed the Secretary of State's written consent before they can sell a school playing field or any part of a school playing field. A sale is only allowed if the playing field in question is genuinely surplus to schools needs and any community groups that may happen to use them. Also, all of the proceeds of sale must be used to improve school sports provision in the first instance. Only when it has been demonstrated that no sports facilities are needed can the proceeds be used for other educational facilities.

### Royal Parks: Parking

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation would be required to introduce car parking charges in those Royal Parks where charging is not in force. [306372]

**Margaret Hodge:** No primary legislation would be required to introduce car parking charges in Royal Parks.

Car parking charges can be introduced in the Royal Parks by regulations made under the Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The regulations are subject to negative resolution.

### Tourism

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what recent assessment he has made of the level of associated expenditure in local economies from visitors in self-catering accommodation; [306004]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the repeal of the furnished holiday lettings rules on the quality of tourism products and services. [306006]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]*: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not made any recent assessment of the associated expenditure in local economies from visitors to self-catering businesses.

In respect of the repeal of the furnished holiday lettings rules, the tourism industry has undertaken its own evaluation of the impact on rural and seaside communities, in which most self-catering operators are located. I am aware of the industry's concerns, but any assessment of changes in the taxation arrangements affecting such businesses is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Chancellor. An impact assessment was published alongside the draft regulations on 9 December.

I am also aware of the industry's concerns that the furnished holiday lettings rule changes will impact on the ability of self-catering operators to invest in and maintain their properties. I am continuing to discuss this matter with the Treasury.

### Tourism: VAT

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received on the application of a reduced rate of value added tax to visitor attractions, catering and accommodation; and whether he has discussed that matter with HM Revenue and Customs. [303121]

**Margaret Hodge:** I regularly meet the sector through the Tourism Advisory Council and the Tourism Alliance. While tax issues are, of course, a matter for the Treasury, this Department continues to work across Government to represent the concerns of the tourism industry at the highest level and I remain in discussion with the Treasury about the impact such measures will have.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Better Communication Action Plan

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in implementing the Better Communication Action Plan; and if he will make a statement. [305050]

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress the Government has made in its response to the Bercow Report on services for children and young people with speech, language and communications needs. [305111]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Following the Bercow review of services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), the Government published "Better Communication: An action plan to improve services for children and young people with SLCN", backed by £12 million investment.

As part of the action plan, the Department of Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health have chosen 16 local areas to become SLCN commissioning pathfinders. The 16 pilot areas have been chosen to identify good practice in providing support for children with SLCN through the joint working of organisations such as primary care trusts and local authorities. This will be used to develop a national framework to improve the way services are delivered for children across the country.

Jean Gross was announced as the communication champion on 15 October 2009, and we have established the Communication Council, which met for the first time on 21 September 2009, to support initiatives to improve services for children with SLCN. As communication champion, Jean Gross will raise awareness of the importance of communication, share good practice and lead delivery of a national year.

In addition, the university of Warwick has been selected to lead a consortium delivering a three-year research programme on the cost-effectiveness of interventions and to guide the development of future policy and practice in providing services for children and young people with SLCN.

12 organisations working to support children with alternative and augmentative communication needs have been chosen to share grants totalling £500,000 this year as part of Becta's commitment to provide £1.5 million of funding over the next three years. These grants aim to support delivery and provision of services.

### Building Schools for the Future Programme

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects work to begin on the new build elements of the Building Schools for the Future programmes in Pendle at *(a)* Colne Park High School, *(b)* Fisher More Catholic High School, *(c)* West Craven High Technology College and *(d)* Colne Primet High School; and if he will make a statement. [304664]

**Mr. Coaker:** Lancashire county council was among the 13 local authorities which have recently been given approval to rebuild or refurbish secondary schools in their area as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Pending a successful Remit meeting, Lancashire will formally enter the programme for their next phase of BSF investment by April 2010.

Colne Park High, Fisher More Catholic High, West Craven High Technology College and Colne Primet High School are included in this phase of Lancashire's project. Work is currently scheduled to commence around April 2011 and complete by September 2012; this timetable is subject to review as the project develops.

*Lancashire BSF*

Future BSF projects: First follow-on project due to begin before April 2010.

BSF schools open to date: Three.

Total capital investment: Wave 1 £33.7 million (conventional funding—Excl academies); £246.6 million (PFI credits).

Total number of schools: Nine plus two Academies

*First follow-on project*

Remit meetings are currently being arranged and it is anticipated that Lancashire shall formally enter into the next Wave of investment in their BSF programme before April 2010.

Colne Park High, Fisher More Catholic High, West Craven High Technology College and Colne Primet High School are included in the first follow-on project and the indicative programme indicates that work on these schools will commence around April 2011 and complete by September 2012. However, it is important to note that this programme is subject to review as work progresses.

### Capita

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and his Department and its predecessors have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts with his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [303081]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much his Department and its predecessors paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc hold with his Department; and what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between his Department and Capita Group plc. [303151]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** A complete answer to this question could be supplied only at disproportionate cost. I can tell you, however, that the Department spent the following amounts with Capita over the past five years:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| April 2005 to March 2006 | 205,305,614 |
| April 2006 to March 2007 | 119,837,133 |
| April 2007 to March 2008 | 115,531,705 |
| April 2008 to March 2009 | 135,694,436 |
| April 2009 to October 2009 | 71,155,087 |

Total payments made to Capita during the period was £647,523,975.

The Department currently holds 15 direct contracts with Capita Group with a total value worth £82million and 48 contracts through a framework agreement with the Department for Works and Pensions. It would not be possible to identify how much has been paid against these contracts without disproportionate costs.

### Children: Databases

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether ContactPoint users are trained in the detection and removal of malware. [304655]

**Dawn Primarolo:** ContactPoint users will be able to access ContactPoint only from computers that are part of an accredited system. This accreditation includes a requirement that systematic processes and software tools are in place to report incidents and to detect malware and spyware.

Most software tools are automated and do not require intervention from the users in order to detect malware or spyware. Training users to respond to malware detection is part of the accrediting organisation's normal responsibility.

Removing malware is a highly-skilled task requiring system-level access rights that most ContactPoint users will not possess. Commercial best practice is that malware removal is carried out by dedicated IT support teams.

### Children: Day Care

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has allocated to the National Childminding Association for the delivery of consultancy services to every local authority in 2009-10. [305265]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department's Strategic Grant for 2009-10 to the National Childminding Association (NCMA) to help develop and sustain home-based child care, includes £270,112 for consultancy advice and support to local authorities.

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of childminders who are not registered with Ofsted. [305333]

**Dawn Primarolo:** No estimate has been made of the number of unregistered child minders since there is no reliable method of making this estimate.

### Children: Homelessness

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities have developed a joint protocol on homeless teenagers between children's and housing services in order to comply with the House of Lords decision in R (G) *v* London borough of Southwark [2009]. [303618]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Children: Protection

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* improve and *(b)* encourage information sharing between (i) local authorities, (ii) police forces, (iii) the Probation Service and (iv) NHS services when assessing risks to children. [304153]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government recognise the importance of effective and appropriate information sharing to help those who need additional services and in safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Information sharing between practitioners is an essential part of building a complete picture of the situation, being able to correctly assess the risks and in enabling effective early intervention to help improve outcomes for all.

While there is already much good practice in information sharing and growing evidence of increasing confidence among practitioners, we recognise that in some situations practitioners are still unsure when they can share information lawfully. The Government are continuing to work with partners across all sectors, to raise awareness of good information sharing practice and to promote the guidance and training materials that support it.

HM Government's "Information Sharing: Guidance for Practitioners and Managers" which is for practitioners across children's and adult's services (including local authorities, police forces, the Probation Service and the NHS), was developed and published in October 2008 by a cross-Government team.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) led this work, in association with representatives of other Government Departments including Department of Health (DH), Cabinet Office, Home Office (HO) and Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The guidance, together with additional supporting materials, can be found on the DCSF website at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm/informationsharing

It explains when and how information can be shared legally and professionally, in order to achieve improved outcomes. It also advises how organisations should support practitioners to embed appropriate information sharing practices, including in national standards and codes of practice, where appropriate.

The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU) was established in response to the recommendations made in Lord Laming's "The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report (2009)" to provide a strong, co-ordinated strategic lead across four Departments (DCSF, MOJ, HO and DH). As part of its programme of activity, the unit is taking forward work to help embed good information sharing practice.

The Department has also developed a set of tools to make it easier for practitioners to work together and share information appropriately. These include ContactPoint, which is an online directory that provides a quick way for authorised practitioners to find out who else is working with the same child, the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) to help practitioners assess children and young people's additional needs, develop a common understanding of those needs and how to work together to meet them, and National eCAF, which is currently in development and will be a secure IT system for storing and accessing information captured through the CAF.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on when to initiate child protection procedures. [304156]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Guidance to local authorities on when to initiate child protection procedures is contained within Chapter 5 of the statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children". This is currently being revised in response to the recommendations made by Lord Laming in "The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report".

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [303844]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** In the last 12 months, the Department spent £2,737 on Christmas cards and £542 on a Christmas tree at its headquarters building. The Department does not fund Christmas parties.

### Community Relations: Religion

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1120W, on "Community Relations: Faith Schools", if he will assess the effect on community cohesion of faith schools; and if he will make a statement. [302654]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department does not currently hold data or have any mechanisms in place to assess the effect of faith schools on levels of cohesion in particular areas.

All maintained schools in England have had a duty to promote community cohesion since September 2007. This has been inspected by Ofsted since September 2008. Data are therefore available on Ofsted's judgment of how schools are performing in fulfilling that duty and many faith schools are included in those receiving good or outstanding. The judgment relates to the contribution an individual school is making given its local context. Schools are not held accountable for the level of cohesion in a local area which will be influenced by a large number of factors.

As part of the Department's work to support schools in meeting their duty to promote community cohesion, the Department's officials have commissioned Ipsos/Mori to assess the impact of the community cohesion duty on different types of maintained schools which includes faith schools. The findings from the study will be published in autumn 2010.

### Departmental Energy

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on energy bills in respect of its estate in each year since its inception; and how much he expects to spend in each of the next two years. [304752]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families spent the following amounts on energy bills in the following years:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007/08 | 1,489,366 |
| 2008/09 | 1,683,021 |

Due to billing cycles differing in each of our buildings, it is not possible to provide any figures for the current financial year, and as we are only a proportion of the way through the year, such figures would not be comparable with those above.

The Department is not in possession of sufficient information to predict its expenditure on energy for the next two years.

### Departmental Finance

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated for the *(a)* Parent Know

How campaign, *(b)* child development grant, *(c)* training of the 5,000 outreach advisers referred to in the Children's Plan and *(d)* Respect Parenting experts in each of the 77 designated areas in each financial year since 2006-07; and from what budget (i) such funding and (ii) funding for the two parenting advisers in each local authority has been drawn. [305271]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The funding allocated by DCSF to the programmes is as follows:

*(a) Parent Know How Services*

Parent Know How began in 2008 and is a suite of family services delivered through telephone helplines, online digital services and through print media. It is delivered by a range of third and private sector organisations.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 15,506,000 |
| 2009-10 | 15,147,000 |
| 2010-11 | £16,324,000 |

Funding in 2008-09 includes £4.1 million for local authorities to purchase new database systems as part of the Parent Know How Directory. Figures include capital and revenue funding and are rounded to the nearest thousand.

*(b) Child Development Grant*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 0.75 |
| 2009-10 | 5 |
| 2010-11 | 7 |

*(c) Outreach Adviser Training*

The Department has allocated up to £4 million in this spending period for outreach training, and will publish details of training soon. This funding is being drawn from the Department's programme budgets for these financial years.

*(d) Respect Parenting Practitioners*

The Respect Parenting Practitioners received funding of £3.85 million in 2007-08 from the Home Office Respect Task Force budget and £3.85 million each year in 2008-09 and 2009-10 from the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) Families Group budget. Each of the 77 local authorities was allocated £50,000 per year over the three years.

The Parenting Experts have been allocated a total of £9 million in 2008-10 and £11.5 million in 2009-10. This has been funded from the DCSF Families Group budget.

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has allocated to *(a)* the Graduate Leader Fund, *(b)* extending the free early learning entitlement to 38 weeks per year, *(c)* the Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work programme and *(d)* Early Excellence centres from the Standards Fund in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [305336]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* The Department has allocated £305 million during the period 2008-11 for the Graduate Leader Fund (GLF), made up of £232 million in the Sure Start Early Years Childcare Grant for settings, routed via local authorities, and £73 million for the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) to deliver Early Years Professional Status training and accreditation.

This funding forms part of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG) distributed by local authorities and is part of the main revenue funding block which is not ring-fenced for the GLF.

*(b)* The free early learning entitlement is being extended from 12.5 hours a week for 38 weeks a year to 15 hours a week for 38 weeks a year in a staged roll-out. Since September 2009 all local authorities have been delivering an extended offer of 15 hours a week to their 25 per cent. most disadvantaged three and four-year-olds. From September 2010 all eligible three and four-year-old children will be entitled to 15 hours a week free provision over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year offered on a more flexible basis to better meet families' needs. Funding of £170 million in 2009-10 and £340 million in 2010-11 has been made available through the Standards Fund to fund the additional 2.5 hours per week of provision and flexible delivery. This funding is over and above that which local authorities currently receive through the Dedicated Schools Grant for the current 12.5 hour free entitlement.

*(c)* For the Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work scheme we have allocated £25 million for 2009-10 and a further £40 million for 2010-11.

*(d)* Funding for Early Excellence Centres from the Department ceased at the end of March 2006.

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on the *(a)* Childcare Sufficiency and Access Grant, *(b)* Sure Start Children's Centre, *(c)* Sure Start local programmes and *(d)* Outcomes, Quality and Inclusion block of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant in each financial year between 2003-04 and 2007-08. [305337]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The spend by local authorities on Sure Start Children's Centres and Sure Start Local Programmes between 2003-04 is shown in Table 1. The Childcare Sufficiency and Access and Outcomes Quality and Inclusion blocks of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant did not come into being until 2008-09.

*Table 1. Local authority spend on Sure Start Children's Centres and Sure Start Local Programmes from 2003-04 to 2007-08*

| | | | | | | £ million |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
| Revenue | Sure Start Local Programmes | 306.0 | 360.0 | 381.8 | 376.6 | 315.1 |
| | Children's Centres | 2.2 | 11.0 | 90.0 | 251.5 | 314.7 |

*Table 1. Local authority spend on Sure Start Children's Centres and Sure Start Local Programmes from 2003-04 to 2007-08.*

| | | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *£ million*<br>*2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Sub total | 308.2 | 371.0 | 471.8 | 628.1 | 629.8 |
| Capital | Children's Centres | 2.0 | 11.8 | 184.4 | 203.0 | 288.2 |
| | Total | 310.2 | 382.8 | 656.2 | 831.1 | 918.0 |

Local authorities also received a single capital allocation for Sure Start Local Programmes from 1999-00 to 2005-06 of £459.8 million.

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much his Department plans to spend on the Aiming Higher for Disabled Children block of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [305340]

(2) how much was spent on the Aiming Higher for Disabled Children block of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant in each financial year between 2003-04 and 2008-09. [305338]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** A breakdown of the Department's Aiming Higher for Disabled Children block of its Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant to local authorities is given in the following table.

| | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *£*<br>*2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Revenue | 261,541 | 17,866,495 | 78,927,431 | 178,352,610 |
| Capital | 0 | 4,497,000 | 32,999,700 | 52,480,500 |
| Total | 261,541 | 22,363,495 | 111,972,131 | 230,833,110 |

There was no funding for the Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme before 2007-08. The figure for 2007-08 is the funding given to 21 pathfinder local authorities in that year and represents actual spend. Figures for 2008-11 are planned spend. These are the latest data the Department holds.

## Departmental Mobile Phones

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on *(a)* purchasing and *(b)* bills for (i) Blackberrys and (ii) other mobile telephones in each of the last three years. [301351]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The DCSF and its predecessors have spent the following amounts on the purchase of (i) Blackberry and (ii) other mobile telephones in each of the last three financial years (FYs) including current FY.

| | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *£*<br>*2009-10*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Blackberry devices | 24,552 | 28,675 | 26,316 |
| Other Mobile Telephones | 1,102 | 1,309 | 1,222 |
| Total Spend | 25,654 | 29,984 | 27,538 |

[1] Current

*(b)* Blackberry and other mobile telephone billing information are combined within existing system data records and cannot currently be reported separately.

## Departmental Press

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the operational costs of his Department's press office have been in each year since its inception; and how much he expects them to be in each of the next two years. [304753]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The information is as follows:

Operational costs of the press office in 2007-08 were £1,955,761

Operational costs of the press office in 2008-09 were £1,912,411

Operational costs of the press office so far in 2009-10 are £1,205,515

There are no resources yet allocated for 2010-11 or 2011-12 for the press office as these figures are yet to be finalised.

## Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301545]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department uses the internet and encourages on-line applications, where possible, to improve the quality and efficiency of its recruitment processes. In all of the recruitment campaigns over the 12 months (November 2008 to November 2009) there was always the option to complete a paper based application. The Department also made use of advertising media other than the internet such as Jobcentre Plus, newspapers, career fairs, and university and specialist publications to attract people.

## Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what weight of paper his Department has recycled in each of the last five years. [300775]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** DCSF Headquarters has recycled the following weights of paper in the last five years:

| | *Detailed tonnages—recycled paper*<br>*Publications* | *Offices* | *Total tonnages* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1,082.62 | 206.98 | 1,289.6 |
| 2005-06 | 1,082.62 | Unknown | 1,082.62 |
| 2006-07 | 589 | 280 | 869 |
| 2007-08 | 889.85 | Unknown | 889.85 |
| 2008-09 | 448.16 | 315.2 | 763.36 |

| | | Detailed tonnages—recycled paper | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Publications | Offices | Total tonnages |
| Total | 4,092.25 | 802.18 | 4,894.43 |

DCSF Headquarters has produced less publications waste paper due to the introduction of a more efficient publications stock control management system.

The percentage of waste recycled from total waste arising has increased every year since the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) targets baseline year of 2004-05.

DCSF has exceeded the waste recycling target of 40 per cent. recycled by 2010 for several years (58.9 per cent. in 2007-08) whilst still meeting the target for reducing waste arising by 5 per cent. by 2010 in relation to 2004-05 levels.

## Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303952]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The number of security passes issued by DCSF to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months was 368.

## Departmental Working Hours

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of staff of his Department and its non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301338]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Information on the numbers working part-time is published regularly in the civil service statistics:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

The Department offers a range of flexible work arrangements to employees including compressed hours, flexitime, home working, job sharing, partial retirement, part-time working and part-year working. Employees make applications to their line managers who take decisions based on business requirements.

The civil service operates a job share website which can be found at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/jobs/jobshare/for-you/what-is-a-job-share.aspx

The Department's non-departmental public bodies are responsible for their own employee working arrangements and the information is not held centrally.

## Education: Assessments

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16-year-olds completed an OCR National Certificate in each subject in each of the last five years. [303302]

**Mr. Coaker:** The following table shows the number of 16-year-olds in England who completed an OCR National Certificate in each subject in each of the last five years for which information is available.

*OCR National Certificate Awards achieved by those with an academic age of 16 in England, 2003/4 to 2007/8*

| | Year in which qualification was achieved | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Qualification title* | *2003/04* | *2004/05* | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | *2007/08* |
| OCR Level 1 National Certificate in Applied Art, Design and Media | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OCR Level 1 National Certificate in Business and ICT | 0 | [1]— | 36 | 104 | 197 |
| OCR Level 1 National Certificate in Health and Social Care | 0 | 10 | 100 | 166 | 170 |
| OCR Level 1 National Certificate in ICT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OCR Level 1 National Certificate in Leisure and Tourism | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 45 | 80 |
| OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Art and Design | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 57 |
| OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Business | 0 | 65 | 208 | 422 | 760 |
| OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Design | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Health and Social Care | [illegible] | 178 | 445 | 686 | 814 |
| OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Information Technology | 0 | 25 | 82 | 217 | 596 |
| OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Media | 0 | 5 | 118 | 202 | 201 |
| OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Public Services | 0 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 11 |
| OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Science | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 104 |
| OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Sport | 0 | 35 | 116 | 135 | 140 |
| OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Travel and Tourism | 0 | 4 | 73 | 221 | 399 |
| OCR Level 3 National Certificate in Art and Design | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OCR Level 3 National Certificate in Business | 11 | 28 | 45 | 47 | 69 |
| OCR Level 3 National Certificate in Design | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OCR Level 3 National Certificate in Health, Social Care and Early Years | 0 | 23 | 50 | 118 | 86 |
| OCR Level 3 National Certificate in ICT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OCR Level 3 National Certificate in Media | 0 | 0 | 43 | 78 | 79 |

*OCR National Certificate Awards achieved by those with an academic age of 16 in England, 2003/04 to 2007/08*

| *Qualification title* | *Year in which qualification was achieved*<br>*2003/04* | *2004/05* | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | *2007/08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| OCR Level 3 National Certificate in Public Services | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 0 |
| OCR Level 3 National Certificate in Sport | 0 | * | 71 | 83 | 117 |
| OCR Level 3 National Certificate in Travel and Tourism | 0 | 3 | 24 | 40 | 45 |
| Total | 11 | 188 | 1,423 | 2,614 | 9925 |

[1] Figures less than three have been suppressed and replaced by "*".

Source:

National Information System for Vocational Qualifications

### Education: Class Sizes

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his Department's most recent estimate is of the average class size in secondary schools; [305771]

(2) what his Department's most recent estimate is of the average class size in primary schools. [305772]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Final information on average class size for 2009 was published on 11 August 2009 as an update to the Statistical First Release "Schools, Pupils and Their Characteristics: January 2009" (which was originally published on 13 May 2009) and can be found in Table 8 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000843/index.shtml

### EU Law

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* statutory instruments and *(b)* other regulations his Department has brought forward in this Parliament to meet obligations arising from EU law. [304172]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families has made one set of regulations by way of statutory instrument in this Parliament to meet obligations arising from EU law, namely the Electronic Commerce Directive (Adoption and Children Act 2002) Regulations 2005. The key policy areas within the Department's remit (education in schools, children's social care and substantive family law) fall outside Community competence.

### Every Child A Talker Programme

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of money from the Every Child A Talker programme has been allocated to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* national strategies; [305049]

(2) what recent progress has been made under the Every Child A Talker programme; and if he will make a statement; [305051]

(3) how many children in England have received support through the Every Child A Talker programme; [305052]

(4) how much has been spent on the Every Child A Talker programme to date. [305053]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** A total of £41.2 million over a three-year period has been made available to all local authorities as part of the Every Child a Talker programme. This includes up to £50,000 per year for each local authority (and slightly more for areas where it is more expensive to recruit and retain staff) to employ an early language consultant.

The rest of the funding—the majority—is for staff in early years settings to access training and professional development. No local authority spending data are yet available for the period covering ECaT since its launch in September 2008.

None of the £41.2 million was allocated to National Strategies. Their role in supporting LAs to implement the ECaT programme is part of their ongoing contract with the Department.

We do not have details of the number of children who have received support through ECaT as the programme is aimed at improving practitioners' understanding of early language development so that they can focus on raising the speaking and listening skills of children in settings where there is the greatest need. Over 3,500 practitioners will receive training and support through the programme.

The programme has been widely welcomed by participating local authorities, who have recruited early language consultants and are working with targeted settings. Because of the age of the children expected to benefit from the programme, we do not expect to see a significant impact on Early Years Foundation Stage Profile results until 2010. However, it is encouraging to see significant improvements in the 2009 results of many of the local authorities involved in the first wave of the programme.

### Extracurricular Activities

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* out-of-school and *(b)* holiday play schemes there were in (i) each local authority area in the north-west and (ii) England in each of the last five years. [304676]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The following shows the number of out-of-school clubs in England, and each local authority area in the north-west Government office region in each of the last five years for which data were collected. The last year that Ofsted collected information on out-of-school clubs was 2008 as changes in legislation meant that new categories were introduced for the collection of child care data.

Information on the number of holiday play schemes is not available as Ofsted do not collect these data.

*Number[1] of out of school clubs for children under eight years of age*

| *Position at 31 March each year* | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 9,200 | 9,700 | 10,500 | 10,600 | 10,700 |
| | | | | | |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 20 |
| Blackpool | 50 | 50 | 50 | 40 | 40 |
| Bolton | 60 | 70 | 70 | 80 | 80 |
| Bury | 60 | 70 | 70 | 60 | 80 |
| Cheshire | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Cumbria | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Halton | 40 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Knowsley | 40 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Lancashire | 200 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| Liverpool | 80 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Manchester | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Oldham | 50 | 60 | 70 | 70 | 70 |
| Rochdale | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Salford | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 70 |
| Sefton | 40 | 50 | 60 | 60 | 70 |
| St. Helens | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 60 |
| Stockport | 60 | 70 | 80 | 80 | 60 |
| Tameside | 40 | 50 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| Trafford | 60 | 60 | 70 | 70 | 70 |
| Warrington | 60 | 70 | 60 | 70 | 70 |
| Wigan | 60 | 60 | 70 | 70 | 70 |
| Wirral | 70 | 60 | 80 | 60 | 60 |

[1] Figures over 100 have been rounded to the nearest 100 and figures under 100 have been rounded to the nearest 10

Source:

Ofsted

## Foster Care

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many assessments of friends and family foster carers were carried out in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in each of the last five years; [305369]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of kinship foster carers aged *(a)* 50 to 64 years and *(b)* 65 years and over. [305367]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

## Free School Meals

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of students in school sixth forms were entitled to free school meals in the latest 12 month period for which data are available; and if he will make a statement. [304751]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The requested information is shown in the following table:

*State-funded secondary schools[1,2]: School meal arrangements of sixth form pupils[3,4] as at January 2009 in England*

| | Number/percentage |
|---|---|
| All pupils | 341,440 |
| Pupils eligible for free school meals | 20,470 |
| Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals | 6.2 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed

[2] Include city technology colleges and academies

[3] Sole and dual (main) registrations

[4] Sixth form defined as pupils in National Curriculum year groups 12, 13 and 14

Source:

School Census

Pupils are recorded as eligible only if a claim for free school meals has been made by them or on their behalf by parents and either (a) the relevant authority has confirmed their eligibility and a free school meal is currently being provided for them, or (b) the school or the local authority have seen the necessary documentation that supports their eligibility, and the administration of the free meal is to follow as a matter of process. It is not known how many pupils could be eligible but are not submitting a claim.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals has decreased by more than (i) five, (ii) 10, (iii) 15 and (iv) 20 per cent. between 2005 and the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [305176]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The requested information is shown in the table.

*Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[2,3] schools: Percentage change in free school meal eligibility[4] between 2005 and 2009. As at January each year. In England*

| | Primary | Secondary |
|---|---|---|
| Number of schools open in both years | 16,630 | 3,200 |
| | | |
| *Number of schools whose percentage FSM has fallen by:* | | |
| >5 per cent | 7,600 | 1,800 |
| >10 per cent | 6,400 | 1,100 |
| >15 per cent | 5,530 | 600 |

*Maintained primary¹ and state-funded secondary² ³ schools: Percentage change in free school meal eligibility³ between 2008 and 2009. As at January each year. In England*

| | *Primary* | *Secondary* |
|---|---|---|
| >20 per cent | 4,690 | 610 |

¹ Includes middle schools as deemed.
² Includes city technology colleges and academies.
³ Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

## Free School Meals: Expenditure

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to the public purse was of free school meals in *(a)* all schools and *(b)* school sixth forms in the last year for which figures are available. [303723]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department does not collect this information. It is for individual local authorities to decide how much funding to allocate to school meal provision. Where a school chooses to manage its own budget for school meals, it is also responsible for deciding how much to allocate.

## GCSE

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils attended maintained mainstream schools at which fewer than *(a)* one per cent., *(b)* five per cent. and *(c)* 10 per cent. of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieved fewer than five GCSEs, including English and mathematics at grade A* to C in the latest year for which figures are available. [301039]

**Mr. Coaker:** Of pupils at the end of key stage 4 attending maintained mainstream schools, in 2008,

*(a)* 3,222 attended one of the very top performing schools with fewer than 1 per cent. of pupils achieving fewer than five GCSEs at grades A*-C or the equivalent including English and mathematics.

*(b)* 19,536 attended a school with fewer than 5 per cent. of pupils achieving fewer than five GCSEs at grades A*-C or the equivalent including English and mathematics.

*(c)* 23,733 attended a school with fewer than 10 per cent. of pupils achieving fewer than five GCSEs at grades A*-C or the equivalent including English and mathematics.

Only those schools published in the 2008 Achievement and Attainment Tables have been included in this analysis.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children in care achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in each year since 1997. [304657]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Information on the number of children who achieve five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics is not available from the OC2 return, which is the current source of data on the attainment of looked after children. The OC2 return is due to be superseded by a new data source which will be used to monitor the attainment of looked after children from 2010.

In November the Department published analysis of the new data source as experimental statistics in the release, "Bridging Series for Outcomes for Looked After Children: Comparison of Data from Matched Administrative Source with Current Aggregate Source":

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000894/index.shtml

Information from the new data source is available from 2006 and is shown in the table.

*Key Stage 4 eligibility and performance of children who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months¹ (GCSEs and GNVQs only). Years: 2006 to 2009. Coverage: England*

| | *Figures based on matched CLA-NPD data source—Financial Cohort²* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Children achieving 5+ GCSEs⁵ at grades A*-C including English and mathematics* | |
| | *Number of children³ ⁴* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 2006 | 4,900 | 300 | 6.1 |
| 2007 | 4,900 | 320 | 6.6 |
| 2008 | 5,000 | 400 | 8.1 |
| 2009 | 5,000 | 440 | 8.9 |

¹ Children looked after continuously for at least 12 months excluding children in respite care.
² Children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March.
³ All numbers less than 1,000 are rounded to the nearest 10, otherwise they are rounded to the nearest 100.
⁴ Number of children based on those children aged 15 at the start of the academic year i.e. 31 August.
⁵ Includes results in GCSEs and GNVQs only, excludes equivalencies.

These figures are experimental statistics and should be treated with caution. They have been released to allow readers to comment on the new data source and methodology before being adopted fully as official statistics.

## GCSE: Greater London

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* key stage 2 pupils reached level 4 in English and mathematics and *(b)* GCSE pupils achieved at least five A* to C grades, including English and mathematics in each London local authority area in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008. [304518]

**Mr. Coaker:** The following table lists the percentage of Key Stage 2 pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English and mathematics, and the percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-C at GCSE including English and mathematics in 1997 and 2008 for every London local authority.

| | *Percentage of KS2 pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English and mathematics* | | *Percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-C at GCSE (or equivalent) including English and mathematics GCSEs* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *1997* | *2008* | *1997* | *2008* |
| City of London | 75 | 83 | | |
| Camden | 53 | 74 | 35.1 | 47.9 |
| Hackney | 50 | 65 | 17.3 | 42.6 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 60 | 73 | 32.5 | 55.6 |
| Islington | 46 | 76 | 16.5 | 38.9 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 56 | 81 | 29.0 | 54.6 |
| Lambeth | 42 | 69 | 19.6 | 47.1 |
| Lewisham | 64 | 73 | 19.4 | 45.9 |
| Southwark | 46 | 76 | 17.1 | 42.7 |

| Local authority | Percentage of KS2[1] pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English and mathematics | | Percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-C at GCSE (or equivalent) including English and mathematics GCSEs | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1997 | 2008[1] | 1997[2] | 2008[3] |
| Tower Hamlets | 37 | 74 | 15.0 | 41.2 |
| Wandsworth | 50 | 73 | 29.2 | 50.1 |
| Westminster | 54 | 75 | 22.5 | 60.7 |
| Haringey | 45 | 66 | 17.9 | 42.1 |
| Newham | 36 | 68 | 25.2 | 45.5 |
| Greenwich | 40 | 69 | 19.9 | 46.4 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 41 | 68 | 22.0 | 39.2 |
| Barnet | 60 | 74 | 42.2 | 65.5 |
| Bexley | 56 | 76 | 39.6 | 51.6 |
| Brent | 57 | 72 | 30.1 | 55.6 |
| Bromley | 63 | 77 | 42.9 | 58.5 |
| Croydon | 52 | 72 | 28.4 | 47.6 |
| Ealing | 51 | 73 | 29.2 | 52.1 |
| Enfield | 49 | 75 | 31.4 | 48.0 |
| Harrow | 66 | 77 | 40.9 | 57.7 |
| Havering | 56 | 78 | 37.0 | 55.6 |
| Hillingdon | 56 | 72 | 34.1 | 46.6 |
| Hounslow | 60 | 75 | 32.1 | 51.8 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 62 | 79 | 44.7 | 62.5 |
| Merton | 48 | 75 | 30.1 | 48.2 |
| Redbridge | 52 | 76 | 38.3 | 63.8 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 67 | 84 | 36.5 | 56.0 |
| Sutton | 58 | 77 | 47.1 | 67.2 |
| Waltham Forest | 45 | 71 | 25.0 | 44.2 |

[1] The 2008 KS2 figures are derived from the 2008 Achievement and Attainment Tables (AATs).
[2] Figures for 1997 relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) and include GCSE and GNVQ only.
[3] Figures for 2008 relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 and include both GCSE and QCDA approved equivalents.

## Gifted Children: Kent

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils at schools in Ashford constituency have participated in the gifted and talented programme in each of the last five years. [illegible]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department does not collect data about participation in gifted and talented programmes. Through the School Census, schools are asked to confirm the number of gifted and talented pupils they have identified. The following tables provide data on how many children were identified as gifted and talented in the January census between 2006, when the question was first asked, and 2009.

2006 records include secondary gifted and talented pupil data only. Otherwise, figures include primary[1] and secondary[1, 5] school data broken down by the number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils.

*Maintained primary schools[1], number and percentage[2] of gifted and talented pupils[3, 4]*

| | Ashford | |
|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage |
| 2006 | n/a | n/a |
| 2007 | 900 | 10.1 |
| 2008 | 1,170 | 12.1 |
| 2009 | 1,150 | 11.8 |

*State funded secondary schools[1, 5], number and percentage of gifted and talented pupils[3, 4]*

| | Ashford | |
|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage |
| 2006 | 370 | 5 |
| 2007 | 1,070 | 14.3 |
| 2008 | 1,280 | 16.9 |
| 2009 | 1,950 | 25.6 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The number of gifted and talented pupils expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils in the same cohort.
[3] Headcount of pupils.
[4] Excludes dual registrations.
[5] Includes CTCs and academies.

## Graham Badman: Public Appointments

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to what positions his Department and its agencies have *(a)* appointed and *(b)* re-appointed Graham Badman CBE in the last five years; and what (i) the salary and (ii) duration was of each such appointment. [303042]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* Graham Badman was appointed as the Chair of Becta with effect from 1 May 2009. From 1 January 2009 to 30 April he served as Acting Chair. He is paid £30,000 per annum for this role and this is accounted for in the annual report of Becta. He had previously been an unpaid member of the board of Becta for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 December 2008.

Graham Badman is a member of the National Challenge Expert Advisers Panel, which was established in July 2008. This role is not paid and is expected to last until summer 2011.

He has recently conducted National Challenge Progress Reviews of Gloucestershire LA and Suffolk LA., and also a review of elective home education. This work was undertaken on a contractual basis with Nektus.

On 1 December 2008 the Secretary of State directed the London borough of Haringey to appoint Graham Badman to chair the Local Safeguarding Children Board, which it did. The Secretary of State did not make any directions about the salary or term of that appointment which is a matter for the London borough of Haringey.

## Office for Criminal Justice Reform

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 799W, on "Office for Criminal Justice Reform", for what reason data from 1997 to 1999 are currently unavailable in that format. [305629]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Live Police National Computer (PNC) data were first collected in 1995. Between 1997 and 1999 work was ongoing to improve the quality of the data collection in order to bring it to a standard sufficient to support the publication of statistics by local authority.

The first year those data became available for publication was for 2000-01.

### Physical Education: Finance

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department and its predecessors have allocated for the encouragement of physical exercise for pupils in schools in *(a)* Ashford and *(b)* Kent in each of the last five years. [304920]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** In each of the last five years, schools in Ashford and Kent have received funding to deliver the PE and Sport strategy as follows:

£

| | *Ashford* | *Kent* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 437,130 | 2,407,938 |
| 2006-07 | 574,481 | 3,223,291 |
| 2007-08 | 589,714 | 3,462,081 |
| 2008-09 | 580,159 | 3,790,037 |
| 2009-10 | 597,669 | 3,600,875 |
| Total | 2,779,153 | 16,484,222 |

### Playgrounds: Finance

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* the construction and renewal of playgrounds and *(b)* new adventure playgrounds for eight to 13 year olds in deprived areas supervised by trained staff in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [305302]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The national Play Strategy, launched in December 2008, set out the Government's commitment to invest £235 million to deliver 3,500 new or refurbished play areas, plus 30 staffed adventure playgrounds, by 2011.

This funding is allocated to every top tier local authority in England, of which 30 are play pathfinder authorities and the remaining 122 local authorities are Playbuilder authorities. On average every play pathfinder authority will receive around £2 million capital funding and £500,000 revenue funding which is to be used to completely, or substantially, replace old equipment for new or for the building of completely new play areas, with a priority on provision for 8 to 13-year-olds. Play pathfinder authorities will also deliver a new staffed adventure playground. Although these authorities will not receive a separate allocation of funding for the construction of their adventure playground, they have been advised that the construction costs will be around £800,000.

Playbuilder authorities will receive around £1 million capital and £45,000 revenue funding to deliver a minimum of 22 new or refurbished play areas.

Decisions on where the capital funding is spent within local authority boundaries are taken locally, based on grant requirements around improved play spaces being provided where they are most needed, especially deprived areas, and based on a robust consultation process with local children and young people, families and wider communities.

We are encouraging all Members of Parliament to proactively engage with their local play capital programmes as they roll out, and we are asking local authorities to ensure that their local Members of Parliament and council elected members are appropriately consulted, and briefed, about where the capital funding is spent.

The total amount of capital funding allocated for (i) 2009-10 is £100 million and for (ii) 2010-11 is £75 million.

### Pre-School Education

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 219-20W, on pre-school education, how many Steiner Waldorf settings that have applied for exemption from the Early Years Foundation Stage have received such exemption. [305360]

**Dawn Primarolo:** As of 4 December 2009, 21 Steiner Waldorf settings have applied for exemptions from and/or modifications of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Of those that have completed the exemptions application process, 12 Steiner Waldorf settings have been granted exemptions and/or modifications from certain parts of the EYFS Learning and Development requirements. Five applications are currently in the process of being assessed and four applications were incomplete and have been closed.

### Pre-School Education: Finance

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate the cost of extending the pre-school entitlement for three to five year olds to 48 weeks a year; and if he will make a statement. [304201]

**Dawn Primarolo:** From September 2010 all eligible children will be entitled to 15 hours a week of free provision over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year offered on a more flexible basis to better meet families' needs.

We are not extending the free entitlement to 48 weeks of the year. However, in "Next Steps for Early Learning and Childcare" (January 2009) we committed to ensuring that parents will have the choice to stretch the free entitlement over more than 38 weeks, enabling them to take fewer hours per week over more weeks of the year. This will support parents to cover holidays, keep costs constant and help them to budget more consistently. Over 48 weeks, a stretched entitlement would equate to just under 12 hours a week.

### Residence Orders: Guardianship

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in respect of how many children of each year of age special guardianship orders have been made in each year since 2006. [305321]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The number of looked-after children of each year of age who have ceased to be looked after as a result of a special guardianship order in each year ending 31 March 2006 to 2009 can be found in the following table.

Special guardianship orders were first introduced on 30 December 2005. The figures for year ending 31 March 2006 only account for the last three months of the data collection year.

*Table 1. Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March by age on ceasing, as a result of a special guardianship order being granted[1] [2] [3], year ending 31 March 2009, England*

| | | | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006[4]* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| Age on ceasing (years) | 70 | 750 | 1,100 | 1,200 |
| Under 1 | 10 | 60 | 120 | 110 |
| 1 | 10 | 130 | 190 | 190 |
| 2 | 10 | 70 | 120 | 120 |
| 3 | — | 70 | 100 | 100 |
| 4 | 10 | 60 | 70 | 100 |
| 5 | 10 | 40 | 70 | 90 |
| 6 | — | 40 | 50 | 70 |
| 7 | — | 50 | 70 | 80 |
| 8 | 10 | 40 | 60 | 70 |
| 9 | — | 40 | 50 | 50 |
| 10 | — | 30 | 60 | 50 |
| 11 | — | 30 | 40 | 60 |
| 12 | — | 20 | 30 | 40 |
| 13 | — | 20 | 30 | 40 |
| 14 | 0 | 10 | 30 | 40 |
| 15 | — | 20 | 30 | 20 |
| 16 | 0 | 10 | 20 | 20 |
| 17 | 0 | 10 | 10 | |

[1] Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[3] To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. National figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 or to the nearest 10 otherwise. Numbers of 5 or less have been suppressed and replaced with a long dash (—) except where the number is zero.

[4] Special guardianship orders were introduced on 30 December 2005. Consequently figures for year ending 31 March 2006 only account for the last three months of the data collection year.

Source:

SSDA 903

## Schools: Admissions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local education authorities have a percentage of surplus places of at least 10; and if he will make a statement. [303061]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department collects information from each local authority on the number of surplus school places through an annual survey. The most recent data available relate to the position at January 2008.

The following tables show the number of local authorities with a percentage of surplus places of 10 or above at primary level and those with a percentage of surplus of 10 or above at secondary level.

*Primary*

| *LA* | *Surplus (percentage)* |
|---|---|
| Barnsley | 10 |
| Bedfordshire | 13 |
| Bournemouth | 13 |
| Bracknell Forest | 10 |
| Brighton and Hove | 11 |
| Bristol | 11 |
| Bromley | 10 |
| Buckinghamshire | 11 |
| Calderdale | 11 |
| Cambridgeshire | 12 |
| Cheshire | 13 |
| Cornwall | 10 |
| Cumbria | 10 |
| Derby City of | 13 |
| Derbyshire | 13 |
| Doncaster | 16 |
| Dorset | 15 |
| Dudley | 10 |
| Durham | 16 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 12 |
| East Sussex | 10 |
| Essex | 12 |
| Gateshead | 13 |
| Gloucestershire | 12 |
| Greenwich | 12 |
| Hackney | 11 |
| Halton | 13 |
| Hampshire | 11 |
| Harrow | 13 |
| Hartlepool | 11 |
| Havering | 11 |
| Herefordshire | 16 |
| Hertfordshire | 12 |
| Hillingdon | 11 |
| Hounslow | 10 |
| Isle of Wight | 22 |
| Islington | 13 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 10 |
| Kent | 10 |
| Kingston upon Hull City of | 11 |
| Kirklees | 12 |
| Knowsley | 22 |
| Lancashire | 15 |
| Leeds | 11 |
| Leicester City of | 10 |
| Leicestershire | 12 |
| Lewisham | 12 |
| Liverpool | 13 |
| Manchester | 11 |
| Medway Towns | 12 |
| Merton | 13 |
| Middlesbrough | 18 |
| Milton Keynes | 14 |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne | 15 |
| Newham | 10 |
| Norfolk | 14 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 15 |
| North Lincolnshire | 11 |
| North Tyneside | 20 |
| North Yorkshire | 18 |
| Northamptonshire | 12 |
| Northumberland | 19 |
| Nottingham City of | 19 |
| Nottinghamshire | 13 |
| Oxfordshire | 10 |
| Peterborough | 11 |
| Plymouth City of | 13 |
| Portsmouth | 14 |
| Reading | 15 |

*Primary*

| *LA* | *Surplus (percentage)* |
|---|---|
| Redcar and Cleveland | 14 |
| Rochdale | 11 |
| Rotherham | 11 |
| Rutland | 24 |
| Salford | 15 |
| Sandwell | 13 |
| Sefton | 12 |
| Sheffield | 12 |
| Shropshire | 15 |
| Solihull | 12 |
| Somerset | 10 |
| South Gloucestershire | 13 |
| South Tyneside | 19 |
| Southampton | 14 |
| Southwark | 15 |
| Staffordshire | 14 |
| Stockport | 10 |
| Stockton on Tees | 11 |
| Stoke on Trent | 13 |
| Suffolk | 18 |
| Sunderland | 14 |
| Swindon | 11 |
| The Wrekin | 12 |
| Thurrock | 13 |
| Wakefield | 17 |
| Walsall | 10 |
| Warrington | 14 |
| Warwickshire | 12 |
| West Sussex | 11 |
| Wiltshire | 16 |
| Wirral | 14 |
| Wolverhampton | 16 |
| Worcestershire | 11 |
| York | 13 |
| Total LAs | 103 |

*Secondary*

| *LA* | *Surplus (percentage)* |
|---|---|
| Barnet | 10 |
| Bracknell Forest | 10 |
| Bradford | 10 |
| Bristol | 21 |
| Croydon | 11 |
| Cumbria | 10 |
| Doncaster | 10 |
| Dorset | 10 |
| Durham | 14 |
| Gateshead | 10 |
| Greenwich | 14 |
| Hackney | 15 |
| Halton | 12 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 17 |
| Hertfordshire | 10 |
| Hillingdon | 13 |
| Isle of Wight | 15 |
| Islington | 11 |
| Kingston upon Hull City of | 10 |
| Kirklees | 10 |
| Knowsley | 24 |
| Lancashire | 12 |
| Leicester City | 10 |
| Lewisham | 17 |
| Liverpool | 11 |
| Manchester | 11 |
| Medway Towns | 10 |
| Middlesbrough | 14 |
| Milton Keynes | 12 |
| Newham | 10 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 20 |
| North Lincolnshire | 12 |
| North Yorkshire | 11 |
| Northumberland | 15 |
| Nottingham City of | 22 |
| Nottinghamshire | 10 |
| Oxfordshire | 12 |
| Peterborough | 11 |
| Portsmouth | 11 |
| Reading | 16 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 10 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 13 |
| Rochdale | 13 |
| Rutland | 12 |
| Salford | 19 |
| Sefton | 11 |
| South Gloucestershire | 12 |
| Southampton | 20 |
| Stockton on Tees | 11 |
| Stoke on Trent | 14 |
| Suffolk | 12 |
| Sunderland | 15 |
| Torbay | 13 |
| Trafford | 10 |
| Wandsworth | 11 |
| Wiltshire | 11 |
| Wirral | 13 |
| Wolverhampton | 14 |
| Total LAs | 58 |

## Schools: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in *(a)* Enfield North constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Enfield are below the National Challenge Benchmark following 2009 GCSE results. [303359]

**Mr. Coaker:** Individual school results for the 2008-09 academic year are not available until the publication of the Achievement and Attainment Tables in January 2010. In 2008 there were three schools in the London borough of Enfield that had fewer than 30 per cent. of its pupils at the end of Key Stage 4, achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and mathematics, of which one school was in the Enfield North constituency.

## Schools: Flooding

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of schools at risk of flooding. [305233]

**Mr. Coaker:** This information is not held by the Department. However, the DCSF is currently undertaking research as part of its departmental adaptation plan (to be published in spring next year) which includes work to map flood risk in schools in collaboration with the Environment Agency.

### Schools: Rural Areas

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many rural *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have closed in each year since 1997. [305059]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The following table sets out the number of maintained rural schools that have closed in each year since 2000. We do not have reliable information about decisions made prior to 2000.

| | *Primary* | *Secondary*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 2 | |
| 2001 | 1 | |
| 2002 | 5 | |
| 2003 | 6 | 1 |
| 2004 | 11 | |
| 2005 | 10 | |
| 2006 | 10 | |
| 2007 | 14 | |
| 2008 | 14 | 1 |
| 2009 | 12 | |
| Total | 85 | 2 |

[1] Including middle deemed secondary.

The table shows closures where the schools ceased to be maintained and were not replaced. There are other circumstances involving school closure which have been excluded from the table because replacement provision was established, for example, in the case of a change to a school's religious character or an amalgamation of an infant and junior school to form a primary school.

### Secondary Education: Per Capita Costs

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average per student funding was in comprehensive secondary schools of *(a)* less than 100, *(b)* 100 to 199, *(c)* 200 to 299, *(d)* 300 to 399, *(e)* 400 to 499, *(f)* 500 to 599, *(g)* 600 to 700 and *(h)* over 700 students in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [303730]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department collects figures of the levels of per pupil funding allocated to schools by local authorities via the Section 52 Outturn statements. The Section 52 Outturn statements are completed by all local authorities in England and all local authorities have their own individual local funding formulae to delegate education funding to the maintained schools in their area.

The following table shows the per pupil funding for maintained secondary schools in 2006-07 broken down by size. Please note that figures for opening and closing schools in that financial year have been excluded and that there was only one urban school with fewer than 100 pupils, hence the high per-pupil funding figure.

*Total budget share (plus grants)[1,2] per pupil[3] in secondary schools[4] in England with an urban/rural split: 2006-07 cash terms[5] figures as reported by local authorities as at 29 October 2009*

| | *Number of pupils in school* | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *<100* | *100-199* | *200-299* | *300-399* | *400-499* | *500-599* | *600-699* | *700+* |
| All secondary schools | 11,060 | 5,360 | 4,380 | 4,000 | 4,050 | 4,290 | 4,300 | 4,080 |
| Rural schools only | 4,790 | 5,260 | 4,370 | 3,640 | 3,800 | 3,990 | 3,810 | 3,860 |
| Urban schools only | 22,820 | 5,490 | 4,400 | 4,120 | 4,170 | 4,380 | 4,420 | 4,110 |

[1] Budget share plus grants allocated to schools is the combination of the schools individual budget share plus any revenue grants allocated to the school at the start of the financial year. This does not include any capital funding allocated to schools.

[2] The amount of money allocated to a school depends very much on the individual local authorities' own policy for funding their schools. Different authorities retain varying amounts of funding centrally to spend on behalf of their schools while others chose to give schools more autonomy over how they spend their money by devolving more funding to the individual school.

[3] The pupil numbers used to calculate the per pupil amounts are as reported by the local authority on their Section 52 Budget Statement (Table 2) comprising of the full time equivalent number pupils registered at the school used for the initial determination of the school's budget share under the local authority's allocation formula.

[4] Included are all local authority maintained secondary schools who are reported by their LA as being open for the entire final year (schools that are reported as either opening or closing during the financial year have been removed). Figures include any LSC funding and LSC pupils for schools with 6th forms.

[5] Figures are rounded to nearest £10.

[6] Definition of urban and rural schools in accordance with Rural and Urban Area Classification 2004 — further information available at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp

### Secondary Education: Standards

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the written ministerial statement of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 61-2WS, on secondary school improvement, what schools are classified as coasting in each local authority; and if he will make a statement. [303733]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Gaining Ground strategy is locally driven. Local authorities were asked to identify schools in their area that might benefit from the support available. Schools were considered for the programme if their attainment was above 30 per cent. A*-C GCSEs including English and maths and their progression between key stage 2 (age 11) and key stage 4 (age 16) was below average with little improvement over at least three years. Local authorities also considered other criteria such as whether the school placed an equal emphasis on progression and attainment.

### Special Educational Needs

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools for children with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties there are in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Castle Point. [301072]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The requested information is given in the following table.

| | *Total schools* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* England | 1,140 |
| *(b)* Essex | 19 |
| *(c)* Castle Point | 2 |

*Source:*
EduBase 2

The following school types have been included within this answer:

community, community special, foundation, foundation special, non-maintained special, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled.

Please note, the schools included in answer *(c)* above are also included within answer *(b)* above.

### Special Educational Needs: Finance

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families from what budgets funding is drawn for *(a)* improved special educational needs (SEN) training, *(b)* the Achievement for All programme, *(c)* further SEN support and *(d)* the implementation of the recommendations of the Bercow Review. [305335]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The funding is drawn from the Special Educational Needs and Disability Division's delegated budget within the Children and Families Directorate in the Department. Department of Health budgets are also supporting the implementation of the "Better Communication Action Plan", the Government's response to the Bercow Review.

### Special Educational Needs: Young Offenders

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many posts there were for learning support assistants in *(a)* young offender institutions and *(b)* secure training centres in England and Wales (i) on the most recent date for which figures are available and (ii) on the same date in each of the last five years; and how many such posts were vacant in each case. [305394]

**Mr. Coaker:** Figures for the number of Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) across the youth justice secure estate are not routinely recorded centrally. However, information from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) indicates that in September 2009, there were 153 LSC funded LSAs in the 14 public sector Prison Service YOIs in England, and the LSC is not aware of any current vacancies for LSAs in these establishments.

This information is not collected centrally for the two privately managed YOIs (one of which is in Wales) and the four secure training centres.

### Sure Start Programme

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many Sure Start centres are *(a)* in operation and *(b)* under construction; and if he will make a statement; [305234]

(2) how many Sure Start children's centres there are in each local authority area; [305238]

(3) how many new Sure Start centres have been opened in each of the last 24 months; and how many such centres are planned to be opened in each of the next 12 months. [305242]

**Dawn Primarolo:** At the end of October 2009, there were 3,151 designated Sure Start Children's Centres, offering services to over 2.5 million children under five and their families.

We are on track to achieve our target of at least 3,500 Children's Centres by March 2010. The exact number of Children's Centres under construction or planned to be opened in each of the next 12 months is provisional and subject to change as local authorities work to open their remaining centres, and ensure universal coverage, in discussion with our delivery partner, Together for Children.

Table 1 gives the number of designated Sure Start Children's Centres in each local authority area as at the end of October 2009. Table 2 shows how many new Sure Start Children's Centres have been opened in each of the last 24 months.

*Table 1: Sure Start Children's Centres in each local authority area as at the end of October 2009*

| *Local authority* | *Designated Sure Start Children's Centres at October 2009* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 15 |
| Barnet | 14 |
| Barnsley | 19 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 9 |
| Bedford Borough | 11 |
| Bexley | 13 |
| Birmingham | 69 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 13 |
| Blackpool | 12 |
| Bolton | 15 |
| Bournemouth | 7 |
| Bracknell Forest | 7 |
| Bradford | 33 |
| Brent | 15 |
| Brighton and Hove | 14 |
| Bristol, City of | 26 |
| Bromley | 19 |
| Buckinghamshire | 33 |
| Bury | 11 |
| Calderdale | 16 |
| Cambridgeshire | 29 |
| Camden | 17 |
| Central Bedfordshire | 14 |
| Cheshire East | 12 |
| Cheshire West and Chester | 19 |
| Cornwall | 37 |
| Coventry | 22 |
| Croydon | 20 |
| Cumbria | 28 |
| Darlington | 6 |
| Derby, City of | 14 |
| Derbyshire | 48 |
| Devon | 37 |
| Doncaster | 21 |
| Dorset | 20 |
| Dudley | 18 |
| Durham | 43 |
| Ealing | 22 |

*Table 1: Sure Start Children's Centres in each local authority area as at the end of October 2009*

| *Local authority* | *Designated Sure Start Children's Centres at October 2009* |
|---|---|
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 17 |
| East Sussex | 28 |
| Enfield | 21 |
| Essex | 64 |
| Gateshead | 15 |
| Gloucestershire | 32 |
| Greenwich | 23 |
| Hackney | 19 |
| Halton | 12 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 14 |
| Hampshire | 60 |
| Haringey | 17 |
| Harrow | 12 |
| Hartlepool | 8 |
| Havering | 11 |
| Herefordshire | 11 |
| Hertfordshire | 57 |
| Hillingdon | 12 |
| Hounslow | 14 |
| Isle of Wight | 7 |
| Isles of Scilly | 1 |
| Islington | 16 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 8 |
| Kent | 72 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of | 19 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 7 |
| Kirklees | 33 |
| Knowsley | 16 |
| Lambeth | 27 |
| Lancashire | 73 |
| Leeds | 51 |
| Leicester, City of | 18 |
| Leicestershire | 33 |
| Lewisham | 17 |
| Lincolnshire | 38 |
| Liverpool | 24 |
| London, City of | 1 |
| Luton | 19 |
| Manchester | 39 |
| Medway | 14 |
| Merton | 10 |
| Middlesbrough | 12 |
| Milton Keynes | 15 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 17 |
| Newham | 20 |
| Norfolk | 38 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 14 |
| North Lincolnshire | 12 |
| North Somerset | 10 |
| North Tyneside | 11 |
| North Yorkshire | 36 |
| Northamptonshire | 34 |
| Northumberland | 24 |
| Nottingham, City of | 16 |
| Nottinghamshire | 53 |
| Oldham | 14 |
| Oxfordshire | 33 |
| Peterborough, City of | 15 |
| Plymouth, City of | 16 |
| Poole | 6 |
| Portsmouth | 14 |
| Reading | 11 |
| Redbridge | 14 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 12 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 9 |
| Rochdale | 15 |
| Rotherham | 22 |
| Rutland | 1 |
| Salford | 15 |
| Sandwell | 21 |
| Sefton | 16 |
| Sheffield | 35 |
| Shropshire | 18 |
| Slough | 8 |
| Solihull | 11 |
| Somerset | 33 |
| South Gloucestershire | 11 |
| South Tyneside | 12 |
| Southampton | 11 |
| Southend on Sea | 11 |
| Southwark | 21 |
| St. Helens | 12 |
| Staffordshire | 50 |
| Stockport | 15 |
| Stockton on Tees | 11 |
| Stoke on Trent | 15 |
| Suffolk | 44 |
| Sunderland | 17 |
| Surrey | 62 |
| Sutton | 13 |
| Swindon | 10 |
| Tameside | 16 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 13 |
| Thurrock | 12 |
| Torbay | 7 |
| Tower Hamlets | 21 |
| Trafford | 14 |
| Wakefield | 20 |
| Walsall | 16 |
| Waltham Forest | 17 |
| Wandsworth | 23 |
| Warrington | 11 |
| Warwickshire | 35 |
| West Berkshire | 10 |
| West Sussex | 37 |
| Westminster, City of | 12 |
| Wigan | 18 |
| Wiltshire | 27 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 7 |
| Wirral | 19 |
| Wokingham | 7 |
| Wolverhampton | 18 |
| Worcestershire | 29 |
| York, City of | 8 |
| Total | 3,151 |

*Table 2: Number of new Sure Start Children's Centres opened in each of the last 24 months*

| *Month* | *Number of Children's Centres opened in the last 24 months* |
|---|---|
| Up to the end of November 2007 | 1,723 |
| December 2007 | 158 |
| January 2008 | 229 |
| February 2008 | 346 |
| March 2008 | 441 |
| April 2008 | 1 |
| May 2008 | 0 |
| June 2008 | 1 |
| July 2008 | 1 |
| August 2008 | 1 |
| September 2008 | 4 |
| October 2008 | 1 |
| November 2008 | 2 |
| December 2008 | 2 |
| January 2009 | 4 |
| February 2009 | 4 |
| March 2009 | 93 |
| April 2009 | 1 |
| May 2009 | 3 |
| June 2009 | 18 |
| July 2009 | 12 |
| August 2009 | 10 |
| September 2009 | 50 |
| October 2009 | 46 |

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many Sure Start outreach workers there are in each local authority area; [305330]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the cost to local authorities of employing Sure Start outreach workers in the last 12 months. [305331]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not collect information on how many Sure Start outreach workers there are in each local authority area. Staffing levels in children's centres are a matter for local authorities and their partner agencies.

The Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant provides local authorities with funding for children's centres' outreach activities. It is for local authorities to decide how and where to use this resource. The Government's "Sure Start Children's Centres: Phase 3 Planning and Delivery" document suggests that

> "in the most disadvantaged areas teams should include at least three outreach workers per centre. In less disadvantaged areas local authorities will decide on the best approach."

The guidance can be found at

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/.

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what operating budget was allocated to Sure Start centres in each of the last three years; and how much he expects to be allocated in each of the next three years. [305362]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not allocate operating budgets for individual children's centres but gives allocations to allow local authorities to manage the children's centres in their area. The allocations for 2007-08 to 2010-11 are shown in the table.

*Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant allocations for children's centres 2007-08 to 2010-11*

*£ million*

| | *Main revenue block* | | *SSLP block* | *Main capital block* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Children's centres* | *Total main revenue* | *Sure Start local programmes* | *Children's centres* | *Total main capital* |
| *Local authority* | *Revenue* | *Revenue* | *Revenue* | *Capital* | *Capital* |
| 2006-07 | 310.6 | 595.4 | 381.8 | n/a | 272.3 |
| 2007-08 | 359.1 | 670.6 | 318.3 | n/a | 545.0 |
| 2008-09 | 574.2 | 975.0 | 311.0 | 81.0 | 301.2 |
| 2009-10 | 748.1 | 1,120.4 | 275.0 | 169.0 | 383.0 |
| 2010-11 | 883.5 | 1,297.4 | 251.7 | 101.0 | 315.0 |

The allocations for Children's centres revenue and capital are included within the wider Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant main revenue and main capital funding blocks respectively. Funding in these blocks is not ring-fenced and the authority has the freedom to decide how much to spend on each area supported by the grant, in line with local priorities. The main capital allocation was provided as a single allocation in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average cost of opening a new Sure Start centre is; [305391]

(2) how much his Department has spent on opening new Sure Start centres in each of the last 24 months; and how much he expects to be so spent in each of the next 12 months. [305390]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department allocates capital and revenue funding for Sure Start Children's Centres and their predecessor Sure Start Local Programmes to local authorities. It is for local authorities to decide how to allocate funding between individual centres.

The Department collects spend information from local authorities annually and does not differentiate between new and existing centres. The latest year for which audited spend is currently available is 2007-08. The following table contains details of audited spend for 2007-08 and annual allocations for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 20010-11.

*£ million*

| | | | *Local authority allocations* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Audited spend 2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| Revenue | Sure Start Local Programme | 315 | 311 | 275 | 252 |
| | Sure Start Children's Centres | 315 | 574 | 748 | 883 |
| Capital | Sure Start Local Programme | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Sure Start Children's Centres | 288 | 81 | 169 | 101 |

## Teachers: Armed Forces

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many former service personnel have entered the teaching profession through his Department's Career Transition Partnership in each year since its inception. [304896]

**Mr. Coaker:** The requested information is not available in the requested format.

Since the start of the Ministry of Defence's Career Transition Partnership in 1998, around 280 service leavers have entered the teaching profession.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many former service personnel have entered the teaching profession in each year for which figures are available. [304897]

**Mr. Coaker:** The requested information is not routinely collected centrally.

## Teachers: Males

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mainstream maintained *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools have no male teachers. [304895]

**Mr. Coaker:** In January 2009, there were 4,226 local authority maintained nursery and primary schools and two local authority maintained secondary schools in England that advised that they had no male teachers in their service. The source of this information is the school census.

## Teachers: Science

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* chemistry, *(b)* biology and *(c)* physics initial teacher training entrants were recruited by the Training and Development Agency for Schools in (i) 2004, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2008. [304899]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available information about recruitment to college and employment-based initial teacher training (ITT) in science subjects is given in the following table.

*Initial teacher training. Recruitment to college and employment-based routes. Years 2004/05, 2006/07 and 2008/09, Coverage: England*

| | 2004/05 | 2006/07 | 2008/09 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *College-based courses* | | | |
| Science | 2,830 | 2,990 | 3,110 |
| Biology | n/a | 930 | 1,090 |
| Chemistry | n/a | 530 | 800 |
| General sciences | n/a | 1,180 | 720 |
| Physics | n/a | 350 | 510 |
| *Employment-based routes* | | | |
| Science | 750 | 610 | 400 |
| Biology | n/a | 90 | 70 |
| Chemistry | n/a | 70 | 50 |
| General sciences | n/a | 410 | 230 |
| Physics | n/a | 50 | 50 |
| *Total* | | | |
| Science | 3,580 | 3,600 | 3,510 |
| Biology | n/a | 1,020 | 1,160 |
| Chemistry | n/a | 600 | 850 |
| General sciences | n/a | 1,590 | 950 |
| Physics | n/a | 400 | 550 |

n/a = not available.

*Notes:*

1. Recruitment figures for 2008/09 were provisional and subject to change. College-based recruitment for 2008/09 includes actual registrations and forecast trainees who are expected to enter ITT during the academic year. Employment-based recruitment figures for 2008/09 were for the autumn term only. A further 160 trainees were expected to start on employment-based route courses in Science during the academic year 2008/09. Vocational subjects such as applied science are excluded from the table.
2. College-based ITT recruitment includes universities, other higher education institutions, school centred ITT (SCITT) and Open University. In 2004/05 college-based ITT recruitment included 310 secondary trainees on the Fast Track programme. The Fast Track programme ended in 2005/06.
3. Employment-based ITT recruitment includes Teach First. The first year of the Teach First programme was 2003/04.
4. Recruitment numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. Total may not sum due to rounding.

*Source:*

TDA's ITT Trainee Numbers Census and Employment-Based Database.

## Teachers: Training

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many agreements with initial teacher training providers *(a)* the Training and Development Agency for Schools and its predecessors and *(b)* his Department and its predecessors have discontinued on quality grounds since 1997. [304894]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) is given the power by statute to accredit initial teacher training (ITT) providers, and in doing so it is required to have regard to the quality of providers' courses when allocating training places and funding.

The available information is provided in the table. Accreditation records are available from 1999/2000 onwards. Where accreditation has been withdrawn it has been on the grounds of non-compliance with criteria set out by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State in the

Professional Standards for qualified teacher status and Requirements for ITT together with regard for the quality of provision offered.

*Number of ITT providers where accreditation has been withdrawn Years 1999/2000 to 2006/07 Coverage: England*

| | *Number of ITT providers* |
|---|---|
| 1999/2000 | 0 |
| 2000/01 | 2 |
| 2001/02 | 2 |
| 2002/03 | 6 |
| 2003/04 | 5 |
| 2004/05 | 2 |
| 2005/06 | 1 |
| 2006/07 | 0 |
| Total | 18 |

In 17 other instances over this period, accreditation procedures were begun but not completed, either because the provider concerned improved sufficiently during the process or withdrew the provision voluntarily.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether formal training in recognising and dealing with all forms of bullying is offered to all trainee teachers in each of the teacher training routes. [306007]

**Mr. Coaker:** All trainee teachers on initial teacher training routes to qualified teacher status must demonstrate that they have met the standards before they can be recommended for the award. These include standards relating to discipline and behaviour management, including bullying in all of its forms, and those relating to the safeguarding and well-being of children and young people. The standards, along with extensive guidance for trainers and trainees, are available at:

www.tda.gov.uk/qts

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will respond to question 301338, tabled by the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire on 19 November 2009, on departmental working practices. [305880]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department has responded to the hon. Member today.

### Young Offenders

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many referral orders relating to children aged *(a)* 10 or 11, *(b)* 12 to 14 and *(c)* 15 to 17 years old have been (i) issued and (ii) breached in each year since 1997. [302444]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is as follows:

(i) The following table shows the number of referral orders that have been given to young people by courts.

The presented data are broken down by financial years and by the following age groups: *(a)* 10 and 11, *(b)* 12 to 14 and *(c)* 15 to 17 years old.

(ii) Referral orders are orders of the court and are not breached as other community orders. The YJB does not hold the data on orders that have been revoked after being returned back to the court following non compliance with referral order contract. Referral orders were piloted in some areas between 1999/2000 and 2001/02 and became available in England and Wales in April 2002.

Complete data prior to financial year 2000/01 are not held by the Youth Justice Board.

| | *Referral orders* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *10-11* | *12-14* | *15-17* | *Total* |
| 2000-01 | 25 | 360 | 903 | 1,288 |
| 2001-02 | 52 | 611 | 1,582 | 2,245 |
| 2002-03 | 628 | 7,096 | 19,632 | 27,356 |
| 2003-04 | 541 | 7,569 | 19,173 | 27,283 |
| 2004-05 | 583 | 7,845 | 17,705 | 26,133 |
| 2005-06 | 586 | 8,439 | 19,369 | 28,394 |
| 2006-07 | 545 | 8,509 | 19,668 | 28,722 |
| 2007-08 | 523 | 8,315 | 19,637 | 28,475 |

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which as with any large recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Plants

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Leader of the House how much her Office spent on *(a)* cut flowers and *(b)* pot plants in 2008-09. [306311]

**Barbara Keeley:** The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons spent £1,862.76 on the provision of plants and flowers during the 2008-09 financial year.

A decision was taken some time ago to terminate the contract for plants and flowers. The contract has been terminated.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Chequers

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Prime Minister which special advisers have been admitted to *(a)* the grounds and *(b)* the premises of Chequers on occasions when the Prime Minister (i) was and (ii) was not present in each year since 2006; what the dates of each such admission were; and on how many such occasions special advisers were admitted to Chequers and did not receive official hospitality. [306882]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer you to my answer of 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 760W. As has been the case under successive Administrations, Chequers can be used for meetings and hospitality.

### Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what discussions he had in the margins of the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting on Trinidad and Tobago with Prime Ministers of those Commonwealth countries where Her Majesty is Head of State on amending legislation in such countries relating to *(a)* the religious faith of the head of state, *(b)* the primogeniture rule in the matter of succession, *(c)* abdication, *(d)* morganatic marriage in respect of the Royal Family and *(e)* regency legislation; and if he will make a statement; [304911]

(2) what matters relating to the Statute of Westminster 1931 he discussed with the Prime Minister of *(a)* Canada, *(b)* Australia and *(c)* New Zealand in the margins of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [304912]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 532.

### Foreign Relations: Spain

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he has had with his Spanish counterpart on admitting Spain as a full member of the G20. [304771]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 347.

### Members: Allowances

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister for what reasons legislation to implement the recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life on hon. Members' expenses and allowances was not included in the Government's legislative programme announced in the Queen's Speech. [301056]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House on 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 33WS.

### Parliamentary Private Secretaries

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Prime Minister with reference to his answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 454W, on parliamentary private secretaries, when he expects an up-to-date list of parliamentary private secretaries to be published. [305389]

**The Prime Minister:** Details of parliamentary private secretaries are available in Vacher's.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Student Visas

5. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the system for processing student visa applications. [306219]

**John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the system for processing student visa applications. [306237]

**Mr. Woolas:** We implemented Tier 4 of the points based system on 31 March 2009, replacing the previous arrangements for overseas students to come and study in the UK. This ensures that only those colleges and schools who provide quality education and take responsibility for their students are licensed to bring in international students. We continuously monitor our systems and where improvements can be made we will make them. The Prime Minister recently announced a review of certain elements of Tier 4 and we are studying the recommendations.

### Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

7. **Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to appoint a Chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. [306221]

**Alan Johnson:** I met with the ACMD on 10 November and outlined the process for the appointment of a new chair. My officials are currently pursuing options for appointing the new Chair with the Office for the Commissioner of Public Appointments and with the ACMD. Following these discussions I will be able to confirm timings.

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the minutes of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs meeting in November 2008 are not available. [303651]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The minutes of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs meeting held on 25 November 2008 are published on the ACMD website, available at:

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs-laws/acmd/

### Animal Testing

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many procedures were approved under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [306231]

**Meg Hillier:** Under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, projects are authorised containing protocols comprising one or more regulated procedures. No records are kept of the number of protocols or procedures authorised. However, in 2007 and 2008, there were 3,375 and 2,652 project licences in force at 31 December, respectively.

### Violent Crime: Lincolnshire

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the incidence of violent crime in Lancashire over the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [306236]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Violence against the person offences in Lancashire fell by 7 per cent. between 2007-08 and 2008-09.

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether legal provisions are in place to prevent *(a)* the preaching of hatred and *(b)* incitement to commit criminal acts against the Jewish community in England and Wales; what plans he has to increase protection to the Jewish community; and if he will make a statement. [R] [306095]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Under the Public Order Act 1986, part III Incitement to Racial Hatred, it is an offence to commit an act that is threatening, abusive or insulting and which is intended or likely in all the circumstances to stir up racial hatred.

As part of its work to reduce the vulnerability of crowded places to terrorist attack, police counter-terrorist security advisers have identified higher risk crowded places and work is in hand with a range of partners that aims to reduce their vulnerabilities. Additionally, the National Counter Terrorism Security Office has recently published protective security guidance for all places of worship, including synagogues. Third sector organisations such as the Community Security Trust should contact their local authority and local police if they have any specific local concerns. We have also recently published a Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan to tackle all forms of hate crime, including anti-Semitism.

## Asylum: Democratic Republic of Congo

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 206W, on asylum: Democratic Republic of Congo, how many investigations arising from specific allegations have taken place in each of the last four years. [303556]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 1 December 2009]*: Since December 2006, UKBA has undertaken three investigations arising from allegations about the treatment of returned failed asylum seekers to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## Asylum: Scotland

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were supported in accommodation in each parliamentary constituency in Scotland on the latest date for which figures are available. [301730]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table shows the number of asylum seekers who were supported in accommodation, in Scotland by parliamentary constituency, as at end of September 2009. These figures exclude unaccompanied asylum-seeking children supported by local authorities and those in initial accommodation.

The breakdown of immigration statistics by parliamentary constituency is available from the Library of the House. Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2008 and the latest statistics for Q3 2009 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

*Asylum seekers supported in accommodation[1] [2] [3], in Scotland by parliamentary constituency, as at end of September 2009*

| *Parliamentary constituency name*[4] | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Edinburgh North and Leith | * |
| Glasgow Central | 275 |
| Glasgow East | 245 |
| Glasgow North | 140 |
| Glasgow North East | 1,055 |
| Glasgow North West | 400 |
| Glasgow South | 195 |
| Glasgow South West | 340 |
| Scotland total | 2,650 |

[1] Provisional figures rounded to the nearest 5 with "*" = 1 or 2. Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[2] Excludes unaccompanied asylum-seeking children supported by local authorities, estimated as less than 50 in Scotland in September 2009.
[3] Excludes those in initial accommodation, 75 in Scotland as at the end of September 2009.
[4] Only those parliamentary constituencies where dispersed cases are resident are shown.

## Capita

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and his Department have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts since 1997. [303087]

**Mr. Woolas:** A search of records for instances since 1997 where contracts between Capita Group plc or its subsidiaries and the Home Department have been cancelled would incur disproportionate cost. However, from best available records within the last five years no contract has been cancelled before completion. Capita Business Services provides the Criminal Records Bureau's disclosure processing service under a public-private partnership agreement. Contract schedules set out service levels and the service credits that apply should Capita Business Services fail to meet the agreed service levels. Liquidated damages are charged in the event of late delivery to agreed changes in the service. From 2001-02, the values of service credits and liquidated damages received from Capita Business Services are:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 555,000 |
| 2002-03 | 1,718,000 |
| 2003-04 | 1,528,000 |
| 2004-05 | 53,000 |
| 2005-06 | 92,000 |
| 2006-07 | 168,000 |
| 2007-08 | 0 |
| 2008-09 | 0 |

## Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [303646]

**Mr. Woolas:** To date, the Department has not paid for any Christmas cards.

No official funds are used for Christmas parties.

Christmas decorations are donated by Ecovert FM, the Department's facilities management services provider.

Information concerning the cost of cards and decorations to UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service, and Criminal Records Bureau cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

All Home Office expenditure on rewards and recognition, including staff entertainment, conforms to the principles of regularity, propriety and value for money, and any other guidance as applicable contained within Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Crimes of Violence: Females

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to his Department's Together we can end violence against women and girls strategy, how much his Department plans to spend on *(a)* launching an award scheme to celebrate the achievements of local areas delivering excellence, *(b)* funding the POPPY project and *(c)* funding National Offender Management Service perpetrator programmes in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) each of the subsequent three years; and from what budgets such funding will be drawn. [305313]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The cross-Government strategy 'Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls' was launched on 25 November 2009.

*(a)* The departmental spend on an award scheme for local areas delivering excellence in their response to violence against women and girls will be finalised in spring 2010 by a cross-departmental delivery board. The board will have oversight of all actions in the strategy.

*(b)* Across Government, we have invested £5.8 million in the POPPY project over the last six years to provide high-level specialist support for victims trafficked into sexual exploitation. A further £3.7 million investment will be made in the period 2009-10 to 2010-11 to the POPPY project for specialist victim services for victims of sexual exploitation and domestic servitude.

*(c)* Probation boards fund the cost of delivering accredited perpetrator programmes including for domestic and sexual violence perpetrators through their main grant, and funding for the delivery of accredited offending behaviour programmes in custody is built into prison baselines.

### Departmental Assets

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [306203]

**Mr. Woolas:** My Department rents rather than owns most of its estate and so is focusing more on limiting and where possible reducing its rent liabilities. There is currently one asset for sale. This is the former Official Residence at 62 South Eaton Place whose current book value is £1.7 million. The indicated guide price is £4 million.

### Departmental ICT

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Putney of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 856W, on IT systems, (1) on what projects under what budget headings the £86 million on the Next Generation IST Transformation Programme will be spent; and what timetable has been set for that expenditure. [303787]

(2) on what projects under what budget headings the £3.12 million on the Next Generation IST Transformation Programme has been spent. [303788]

**Alan Johnson:** Since answering the question from the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) *Official Report*, columns 852-56W, on IT systems, I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given to a previous question from the hon. Member for Hornchurch (James Brokenshire) on 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 935-36W.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [303601]

**Mr. Woolas:** As of 30 November 2009, the total number of full-time equivalent press officers employed by the Department is 51.89 full-time equivalents. This includes 14 who are employed (by UKBA) regionally, who undertake work for UKBA which includes tasks which transferred through machinery of government changes from HMRC.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of his Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306733]

**Mr. Woolas:** The number of staff within the Home Office and its agencies that were in a redeployment network on 1 *(a)* January *(b)* April *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009 is shown in table 1.

Staff that are in a redeployment network continue to undertake work for the Department while a new post is actively sought, either within the Home Office and its agencies, or in another Government Department.

*Table 1. Home Office staff in a redeployment network*

| 2009 | Number of staff | Percentage of total Home Office work force |
|---|---|---|
| 1 January | 40 | 0.16 |
| 1 April | 37 | 0.14 |
| 1 July | 65 | 0.25 |
| 1 October | 53 | 0.20 |

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in each of the last three financial years. [303767]

**Mr. Woolas:** Our systems do not collate the press office travel and subsistence budget to distinguish between reimbursable expenses and other costs.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in 2008-09. [306901]

**Mr. Woolas:** I am unable to answer the question as our systems do not collate the press office travel and subsistence budget to distinguish between reimbursable expenses and other costs.

### Departmental Research

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has commissioned on public attitudes to migrant populations in the last five years. [300561]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UK Border Agency does not conduct research into public attitudes specifically to migrant populations. Details of the results on Home Office and UK Border Agency polling on public attitudes to immigration are, however, available on the respective public websites.

### Departmental Security

**Angela Browning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what security requirements are made by his Department in respect of *(a)* people employed to provide audio transcription services to his Department from home, *(b)* the premises in which work to provide such services is carried out and *(c)* arrangements for the transfer of data between such premises and his Department. [302694]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The Department does not currently have in place contracts for the provision of home-working-based audio transcription services.

### Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305374]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** 887 parliamentary questions for named day response were tabled to the Home Office between 1 December 2008 and 30 November 2009. 133 of these questions received a substantive answer on the day named. The following table shows the months in which these questions were tabled. Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the "Guide to Parliamentary Work", at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee Report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

*Written parliamentary questions tabled for named day response, December 2008 to November 2009*

| *Month in which question was tabled* | *Number of questions* | *Number responded to on the named day* |
|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | |
| December | 99 | 12 |
| *2009* | | |
| January | 93 | 16 |
| February | 68 | 17 |
| March | 104 | 14 |
| April | 77 | 6 |
| May | 57 | 9 |
| June | 81 | 11 |
| July | 76 | 14 |
| August | 0 | 0 |
| September | 82 | 2 |
| October | 73 | 18 |
| November | 77 | 14 |
| Total | 887 | 133 |

### Detention Centres: Children

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Ministers in his Department have signed authorisations for the continued detention of children at immigration removal centres beyond 28 days which provide for the detention of children during Christmas 2009. [304866]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* No authorisations have been signed which allow for the continued detention of children beyond 28 days which provided for the detention of children during Christmas 2009.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency has made any arrangements in respect of children detained at immigration removal centres during Christmas 2009. [304867]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* We would prefer not to detain families with children and would rather that they left the UK voluntarily where the Courts have upheld a decision of the UK Border Agency that they must leave the country. However, where they fail to leave after having been given every opportunity and incentive to do so, the Agency has no other option but to detain them to enforce their departure. We believe that it is in the children's best interests to remain with their parents and they are therefore detained as a family group just a few days before their flight. However, detention is sometimes prolonged because of last minute applications to the Court as an attempt to frustrate their removal.

### Detention Centres: Families

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many families he expects to be detained at immigration removal centres during Christmas 2009. [304868]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* We do not have an estimate of the number of families expected to be detained in immigration removal centres during Christmas 2009.

### Detention Centres: Manpower

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female staff are employed at each immigration removal centre. [304441]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]:* There are 10 immigration removal centres in England and one centre, Dungavel House, in Scotland. Eight of the centres are operated under contracts with the private sector. Three centres, Dover, Haslar and Lindholme, are operated under agreements with the National Offender Management Service.

The number of male and female staff employed at each centre is detailed in the following table. The numbers refer to those staff directly employed by the centre operator. The data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. The information is provisional and subject to change.

| *Immigration Removal Centre* | *Male employees* | *Female employees* |
|---|---|---|
| Brook House | 129 | 46 |
| Campsfield House | 81 | 33 |
| Colnbrook | 212 | 128 |
| Dover | 175 | 72 |
| Dungavel House | 53 | 70 |
| Haslar | 73 | 25 |
| Harmondsworth | 145 | 45 |
| Lindholme | 29 | 12 |
| Oakington | 128 | 94 |
| Tinsley House | 64 | 29 |
| Yarl's Wood | 106 | 117 |

### Entry Clearances

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 888-9W, on entry clearances, whether the net value of revenue accrued in respect of applications is retained by the UK Border Agency. [306370]

**Mr. Woolas:** All income from entry clearance is retained by the UK Border Agency. The income received does not cover the full cost of processing this type of application and therefore no net revenue accrues to the Agency.

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted student visas in the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years. [301423]

**Mr. Woolas:** In the 12-month period October 2008 to September 2009, a total of 269,900 visas were issued in the student category.

In the five years from October 2004 to September 2009, a total of 1,184,946 visas were issued in the student category, including 104,596 visas issued to dependents.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were granted to people from each non-EU country in the last five years. [301424]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested has been placed in the House Library. The enclosed table shows the number of student visas and student dependent visas issued to each non-EU nationality in the five year period from October 2004 to September 2009.

### Entry Clearances: Pakistan

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals there were against the refusal of an application for a visit visa from a Pakistani national in each year between 2004 and 2008; what the cost to the public purse was of such appeals; and how many such appeals resulted in an application being granted. [304762]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]:* Only family visits carry full rights of appeal. The information requested is in the following table:

| | *Family visit visa refusals* | *Appeals* | *Allowed appeals* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 7,256 | 8,090 | 3,556 |
| 2005 | 26,359 | 14,495 | 5,026 |
| 2006 | 29,197 | 23,348 | 7,315 |
| 2007 | 31,903 | 27,740 | 9,386 |
| 2008 | 24,076 | 26,379 | 10,540 |

*Notes:*

1. These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.
2. There is only a full right of appeal against the refusal of family visit visas.

### Heads of Government

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of former foreign Heads of Government who are resident in the UK; and whether any cost arising from their residence is borne by the public purse. [303937]

**Mr. Woolas:** No information is held on former foreign Heads of Government who may be resident in the UK.

### Identity and Passport Service: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Identity and Passport Service has made any payments to *(a)* political consultancies, *(b)* external public relations firms and *(c)* public affairs firms since its establishment. [305108]

**Meg Hillier:** Since its establishment, the Identity and Passport Service has made payments to one public relations company who were engaged to work on passport campaigns. This contract expired in 2008 and has not been renewed. IPS has not made any payments to political consultancies or public affairs companies.

## Immigrants: Detainees

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female detainees are held at each immigration removal centre. [304440]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]*: The following table is consistent with the latest published statistics on the number of persons detained in immigration removal centres in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, by place of detention and sex as at 30 September 2009.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

*Persons in detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, by place of detention and sex as at 30 September 2009*[1, 2]

*Number of persons*

| *Place of detention* | *Total detainees* | *Male* | *Female* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *UK Border Agency Removal Centres* | | | |
| Brook House | 400 | 400 | |
| Oakington Reception Centre | 395 | 395 | |
| Yarl's Wood | 325 | 25 | 300 |
| Dover Immigration Removal Centre | 310 | 310 | |
| Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre | 285 | 285 | |
| Harmondsworth | 250 | 250 | |
| Dungavel | 205 | 190 | 15 |
| Campsfield House | 200 | 200 | |
| Haslar | 150 | 150 | |
| Tinsley House | 125 | 115 | 10 |
| Lindholme | 120 | 120 | |
| *UK Border Agency Short Term Holding Facilities* | | | |
| Colnbrook Short Term | 55 | 55 | |
| Dover Harbour | 35 | 30 | 5 |
| Pennine House | 20 | 15 | 5 |
| Harwich | 5 | 5 | |
| Grand total | 2,885 | 2,550 | 335 |

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, * = 1 or 2), may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding and exclude persons detained in police cells, Prison Service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers.

[2] Figures include dependants.

## Immigrants: Finance

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of the Regional Strategic Migration Partnership was in each region in each year since such partnerships have operated; and what estimate he has made of such costs in 2009-10. [305881]

**Mr. Woolas:** The funding for the Regional Strategic Migration Partnership for each region between 2007 and 2010 is set out in the following table:

| *Area* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | Up to £100,000 payable in two instalments of up to £47,000 and up to £53,000 | Up to £110,000 payable in two instalments of up to £55,000 | As per 2008-09 |
| East Midlands | Up to £120,000 payable in two instalments of up to £57,000 and up to £63,000 | Up to £130,000 payable in two instalments of up to £65,000 | As per 2008-09 |
| London[1] | Up to £140,000 payable in two instalments of up to £65,000 and up to £75,000 | Up to £170,000 payable in two instalments of up to £85,000 | As per 2008-09 |
| North East | Up to £135,000 payable in two instalments of up to £65,000 and up to £70[illegible] | Up to £150,000 payable in two instalments of up to £75,000 | As per 2008-09 |
| North West | Up to £155,000 payable in two instalments of up to £75,000 and up to £80,000 | Up to £170,000 payable in two instalments of up to £85,000 | As per 2008-09 |
| Scotland | Up to £135,000 payable in two instalments of up to £65,000 and up to £70,000 | Up to £150,000 payable in two instalments of up to £75,000 | As per 2008-09 |
| South East | Up to £105,000 payable in two instalments of up to £50,000 and up to £55,000 | Up to £110,000 payable in two instalments of up to £55,000 | As per 2008-09 |
| South West | Up to £100,000 payable in two instalments of up to £47,000 and up to £53,000 | Up to £110,000 payable in two instalments of up to £55,000 | As per 2008-09 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Up to £155,000 payable in two instalments of up to £75,000 and up to £80,000 | Up to £170,000 payable in two instalments of up to £85,000 | As per 2008-09 |
| Wales | Up to £115,000 payable in two instalments of up to £55,000 and up to £60,000 | Up to £130,000 payable in two instalments of up to £65,000 | As per 2008-09 |
| West Midlands | Up to £155,000 payable in two instalments of up to £75,000 and up to £80,000 | Up to £170,000 payable in two instalments of up to £85,000 | As per 2008-09 |

[1] The enabling grant with the London Regional Strategic Migration Partnership for 2008-09 was deferred by mutual agreement. The first instalment of the grant, as set out above, payable from 1 April 2008, was made on 1 October 2008. In practice this reduced the grant available for the 2008-09 financial year to £85,000. The amount and timing of the grant payable in respect of the 2009-10 financial year remained as previously agreed; and a further payment of £85,000 is to be paid on or after 1 April 2010.

We are unable to provide details of the specific enabling grant prior to 2007. Data could be provided only at disproportionate cost to the agency.

### Immigration

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of applications for a residence card as the spouse of an EEA national remained outstanding six months after the application was made in each quarter since 2007. [303649]

**Mr. Woolas:** This information is not available as the UK Border Agency's Case Information Database records all family members of EEA nationals who apply for residence cards in one category (EEA2).

### Immigration Controls

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 948W, on immigration controls, for what reasons the verification service's management information system was not operating in February, March and April 2009; and what the operational cost of that service has been since November 2008. [303839]

**Alan Johnson:** The verification service did not operate in February and March because of necessary work to upgrade its security. The service resumed in April. The set up costs associated with the implementation of the IT infrastructure used by Teleperformance for these services was £165,123. Information about costs of the service is commercially sensitive and cannot be disclosed.

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which colleges have had their licences to sponsor students under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system *(a)* revoked and *(b)* suspended. [305056]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]*: 14 colleges have had their Tier 4 sponsor licences revoked and 35 have had their sponsor licences suspended.

We cannot release specific details of the colleges suspended or revoked as this information is commercially sensitive.

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1139-40W, on immigration controls, what action has been taken in respect of the 280 students whose sponsor under Tier 4 had had their licence revoked or suspended up to 16 October 2009. [305057]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]*: The information requested could be obtained only by examination of individual case records.

In general terms, students studying at a college whose licence has been suspended, and not revoked, may continue their studies at that college providing they have valid leave. Students whose leave is about to expire must, as part of an application for leave to remain as a student, show that they are enrolled on a course of study at a college which is on the register of Tier 4 sponsors.

Students studying at a college whose licence has been revoked will have their leave curtailed and are given 60 days to enrol at a college which is on the register of Tier 4 sponsors. If they fail to do so they are expected to leave the country.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 213W, on overseas students, when he expects the review of approval criteria to be completed; who is leading the review; and whether external organisations have been consulted as part of the review. [305088]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]*: I expect the review of approval criteria to be completed within the next 12 weeks. The UK Border Agency is leading on the review of the framework, working with Ofsted, and also taking comments from each of the currently approved accreditation bodies.

### Independent Police Complaints Commission

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the turnover rate of staff of each grade employed by the Independent Police Complaints Commission was in the last six months; [306105]

(2) how many employees of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* age (i) entered and (ii) left employment of the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each of the last six months. [306106]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Home Office does not hold this information. These are matters for the IPCC and they will write to the hon. Member direct.

### Members: Correspondence

**Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood's letter of 28 July 2009 on the case of Rochelle Riley, reference B27707/9. [303203]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 1 December 2009]*: In response to the letter of 28 July 2009, the Deputy Director for Economic and Family Migration in the London and South East Region wrote to my right hon. Friend on 27 November 2009.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he intends to reply to the letter of 15 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr M. Jilani. [303386]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 8 December 2009.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he intends to reply to the letter of 5 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. Gul Bano. [303410]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 9 December 2009.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 22 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton on Mr. Khalid Iqbal Choudhry. [305114]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 8 December 2009.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 21 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton on Ms. S Saeed. [305115]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 2 December 2009.

### Offenders

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prolific and priority offenders are targeted by police in *(a)* North Northamptonshire Basic Command Unit, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* England. [306312]

**Mr. Hanson:** Two prolific and other priority offender schemes, Corby and Wellingborough, cover the four Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in the North Northamptonshire Basic Command Unit area. The most recent performance management data show that, as at June 2009, there were 66 prolific and other priority offenders in Corby and 54 in Wellingborough. The data show that there were 250 prolific and other priority offenders in Northamptonshire and 10,687 across England.

### Police Community Support Officers: North Yorkshire

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what budget he has allocated for pump-priming the provision of community support officers in North Yorkshire in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [305848]

**Mr. Hanson:** Neighbourhood policing is central to improving public confidence that the police and local council are dealing with the crime and antisocial behaviour issues that matter in their area. Public confidence has increased from 45 per cent. in March 2008 to 50 per cent. in June 2009. Since 2002 we have invested heavily to ensure that there is now a Neighbourhood Policing team in every neighbourhood, including in total more than 13,500 warranted officers and 16,000 police community support officers (PCSOs).

During 2009-2010 we are providing £3.33 million to North Yorkshire Police Authority to help maintain 183 PCSOs. We will increase this provision by 2.7 per cent. to £3.42 million in 2010-11.

### Police: Essex

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the costs of providing policing in Essex were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [305823]

**Mr. Hanson:** Total gross revenue expenditure by Essex police in the last three years was as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 306.1 |
| 2007-08 | 308.7 |
| 2008-09 | 324.7 |

The Government provide annual grant to police authorities and it is for the Chief Constable and police authorities to make the best possible use of their resources.

In 2009-10 the general grant provided to Essex was £177.9 million. This was above the minimum 2.5 per cent. increase guaranteed to all forces. In 2010-11 the provisional settlement gives Essex police an increase of 2.9 per cent. in general grants.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many officers of each rank in Essex police have voluntarily ceased employment, excluding redundancy, since April 2009; [R] [306088]

(2) how many officials of each grade have voluntarily ceased employment, other than through redundancy, in Essex police authority since April 2009. [R] [306089]

**Mr. Hanson:** Data since April 2009 are unavailable until headline figures are published in July 2010. The available data for the financial year 2008-09 are given in the following table.

The Home Office does not collect data about officials of the police authority.

*Voluntary resignations and transfers for Essex police, 2008-09*[1]

| | | *Full-time equivalent* |
|---|---|---|
| *Rank* | *Transfers* | *Voluntary resignations (including probationers)* |
| ACPO | 1 | 0 |
| Chief Superintendent | 0 | 0 |
| Superintendent | 0 | 0 |
| Chief Inspector | 1 | 0 |
| Inspector | 1 | 1 |
| Sergeant | 13 | 1 |
| Constable | 72 | 51 |
| Total Officers | 88 | 53 |
| | | |
| Police Staff | 0 | 138 |
| CSO | 2 | 36 |
| Designated officers (s38) | 0 | 3 |
| Traffic Warden | 0 | 2 |
| Special Constable[2] | 1 | 135 |

[1] Full-time equivalent figures provided that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Special constable figures are given as headcount measures.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many officers at each rank were eligible for performance bonuses and special bonuses in Essex police in each of the last three years; how many at each rank received each type of bonus; what the average payment was for each type of bonus at each rank; and what the maximum payment was for each type of bonus at each rank; [306096]

(2) how many officials were eligible for performance bonuses and special bonuses in Essex police authority, by civil service band in each of the last three years; how many people received each type of bonus, by civil service band, what the average payment was for each type of bonus, by civil service band; and what the maximum payment was for each type of bonus, by civil service band. [306097]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Home Office does not hold information on officials eligible for performance bonuses and special bonuses in Essex police authority or in Essex police. The payment of individual bonuses is a matter for the Essex police authority and Essex police.

### Population

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government have a policy on future population *(a)* growth and *(b)* size in the UK. [301782]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Government do not have a policy on the UK future population growth or size, but we do have a migration policy. The new immigration system and the points-based system give us greater control over numbers while maintaining the flexibility our economy needs.

Net migration has fallen over the past year. Population projections provide estimates of the size of the future population based on certain assumptions and pre-existing trends, but they have not yet included the full impact of recent reductions in net migration and nor do they include the potential impacts of Government policies.

### Radicalism

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the implications for the UK of the report and recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe AS/POL (2009) 15 rev on the fight against extremism: achievements, deficiencies and failures; and if he will make a statement. [301466]

**Mr. Hanson:** The report on "The Fight against Extremism: Achievements, Deficiencies and Failures" is still in draft and is due to be considered by the Political Affairs Committee at its meeting on 17 December. It has not yet been adopted by the Committee, or discussed by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

### UK Border Agency

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts with a monetary value of over £5 million the UK Border Agency and its predecessors have signed in each of the last five years. [303821]

**Mr. Woolas:** The number of contracts let with a monetary value of over £5 million in each of the last five years is as follows. This does not include contracts which when signed had a value which was less than £5 million but due to a subsequent extension then exceeded this value.

| | *Total number of contracts over £5 million let by UKBA* |
|---|---|
| 2009 | 3 |
| 2008 | 6 |
| 2007 | 3 |
| 2006 | 34 |
| 2005 | 2 |

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what UK Border Agency *(a)* outsourced services with an annual monetary value of over £250,000 and *(b)* information technology systems with an annual monetary value of over £250,000 are due to (i) be re-procured and (ii) become unsupported in the next four years. [303822]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UK Border Agency has outsourced services across the organisation. The decision to re-procure is primarily driven by the business need and priority, with the commercial strategy and procurement route determined subsequently.

The approach to re-procurement evaluation is made towards the end of each contract in light of business need and available procurement options.

There are no information technology systems contracts which are due to be re-procured or become unsupported in the next four years. However, the UK Border Agency contracts for outsourced services which may be re-procured in the next four years are as follows:

*Programme/project/contract*

Haulage, Storage and Disposal of Excise Goods
Maintenance of five Existing Cutters
Supply and Maintenance of Mobile Scanners
Maintenance for Baggage X-Ray
Maintenance of Legacy Mobile Freight Scanners
Supply and Maintenance of Trace Detection Equipment
Freight Searching Services
Maintenance and Obsolescence Management Services of Passive Millimetric Wave Machine
Relocation Services
Provision of Aerial Surveillance Services
Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) Operating Contract
Campsfield House IRC Operating Contract
Colnbrook IRC Operating Contract
Oakington IRC Operating Contract
Dungavel House IRC Operating Contract
Yarl's Wood IRC Operating Contract
Ticketing Services for UKBA Removals
Escorting—In Country, Overseas and Short Term Holding Facility (STHF)
Port of Dover—STHF Contract
Port of Harwich—STHF Contract
Colnbrook Gaolers
Refugee Integration and Employment Services
Education Verification and English Language Equivalence
Facilitated Returns Scheme for Foreign National Prisoners
Assisted Voluntary Returns
Contact Centre Services
Payment Processing
Asylum Support Partnership Co-Ordination Service

Transportation of Presenting Officers
Case Resolution Department Administrative Function
Target Contracts Asylum Accommodation
Gateway Refugee Resettlement Programme
Asylum One Stop Services
Transport Services for Asylum Seekers
Cash Payment Contract
Initial Accommodation Associated Services
Immigration Case Work System Integrator Contract
Production and Supply of Visa Vignette Products
Service Management of Biometrics Messaging System
Provision of Front End Visa Application Service
Security Guards
Provision of Arrest Team Equipment and Training
Provision of Conflict Training
Leadership and Management Development
Maintenance of Electronic Security Systems
Record Services Contract
Transport of High Risk High Value Items
Repatriation of Offenders
Occupational Health Services
Counter Terrorism Awareness training.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in the UK Border Agency were classified as having non-jobs on *(a)* 1 April 2008, *(b)* 1 October 2008, *(c)* 1 April 2009 and *(d)* 1 October 2009. [303824]

**Mr. Woolas:** 'Non-jobs' has been interpreted as staff who are currently in the redeployment pool. The following table refers to the number of UK Border Agency Staff in the redeployment network as of *(a)* 1 April 2008, *(b)* 1 October 2008, *(c)* 1 April 2009 and *(d)* 1 October 2009.

| *Date as at* | *Number of UK Border Agency staff* |
|---|---|
| 1 April 2008 | 26 |
| 1 October 2008 | 22 |
| 1 April 2009 | 24 |
| 1 October 2009 | 19 |

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what performance targets the UK Border Agency has set for its senior civil service members in 2009. [303825]

**Mr. Woolas:** Performance targets for senior civil servants within the UK Border Agency are set in accordance with the Cabinet Office Guidance entitled 'Managing Performance in the Senior Civil Service' and are individual to the person and the role they perform.

The Cabinet Office guidance requires that senior civil service objectives should include:

Business delivery objectives—that define business outcomes for the specific post, reflecting business priorities and value for money commitments for the year ahead, linked to delivery targets and the Agency's PSAs.

Corporate objectives—that articulate the leadership activity that contributes to the effective corporate management and coherence of a Department and/or the civil service as a whole.

Capability objectives—to ensure that individuals, the Department and civil service have the right capability to deliver business outcomes now and in the future, including improvement of people performance management: managing talent, managing attendance and promoting well-being; and addressing poor performance. Capability targets are drawn from unit and Directorate business plans and, if appropriate, the Home Office's PSAs.

Personal development objectives—to emphasise the importance of continuous personal development and an individual's growth in competence against the leadership and broader Professional Skills for Government frameworks. In addition, individuals are appraised on their leadership behaviour demonstrated throughout the year including providing direction for the organisation; delivering results; and building capability in the organisation to address current and future challenges.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of UK Border Agency staff have financial targets in their performance management objectives; and if he will make a statement. [303826]

**Mr. Woolas:** The setting of individual objectives in performance management reviews is a matter for individual line managers and it is not possible for this reason to state the percentage of staff with financial targets or objectives except at disproportionate costs. We do not waste taxpayers' money on compiling this information.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff were working at each grade in the UK Border Agency on 1 November 2009. [303827]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*United Kingdom Border Agency staff*[1]

|  | *Full-time equivalent (rounded)* |
|---|---|
| *Grade* |  |
| Senior Civil Service | 74 |
| Grade 6 | 165 |
| Grade 7 | 544 |
| HM Inspector Immigration | 213 |
| Senior Officer | 151 |
| Senior Executive Officer | 1,076 |
| Higher Officer | 2,213 |
| Chief Immigration Officer | 773 |
| Higher Executive Officer | 2,090 |
| Immigration Officer | 3,580 |
| Executive Officer | 4,252 |
| Assistant Immigration Officer | 709 |
| Administrative Officer | 4,853 |
| Administrative Assistant | 1,531 |
| Null/Unrecorded grade[2] | 481 |
|  |  |
| *Locally engaged staff (international group)*[3] |  |
| *Of which:* |  |
| Level I | 23 |
| Level II | 184 |
| Level III | 668 |
| Level IV | 485 |
| Level V | 63 |
| Total | 24,128 |

[1] Staff excludes 710 agency works. Figures as at 31 October 2009.
[2] Includes approximately 350 staff whose data are unavailable except at disproportionate cost during machinery of government transfer from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.
[3] Locally engaged staff work for the UK Border Agency but are employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many projects in progress at the UK Border Agency on 1 November 2009 did not have *(a)* signed-off business cases and *(b)* end dates; and what the total budget is of the programmes in each category. [303828]

**Mr. Woolas:** This financial year UKBA has had 12 areas of activity it treats as programmes and projects, of which one had closed by 1 November. This leaves 11 programmes and projects within the corporate portfolio that support the UKBA business plan, change programme and wider Home Office initiatives.

Out of the 11 programmes and projects, two do not yet have a signed-off business case. The two projects are in the process of developing their business cases and are due to go through financial and other approval processes in early 2010.

All 11 programmes and projects have a planned end date.

## HEALTH

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished admission episodes to hospital there were in each strategic health authority area *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 100,000 of the population where an illness related to alcohol was a primary or secondary diagnosis in each of the last five years. [305077]

**Gillian Merron:** The number and rate of finished admissions of patients with a primary or secondary alcohol-related diagnosis in each strategic health authority area can be found in the following table:

*Number and rate of finished admissions of patients with an alcohol-related diagnosis*

| | *2004-05* | | *2005-06* | | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | | *2008-09* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Strategic health authority* | *Number of admissions* | *Rate of admission per 100,000 population (EASR)* | *Number of admissions* | *Rate of admission per 100,000 population (EASR)* | *Number of admissions* | *Rate of admission per 100,000 population (EASR)* | *Number of admissions* | *Rate of admission per 100,000 population (EASR)* | *Number of admissions* | *Rate of admission per 100,000 population (EASR)* |
| North East | 43,919 | 1,535 | 50,579 | 1,749 | 55,510 | 1,898 | 60,755 | 2,046 | 67,955 | 2,254 |
| North West | 114,946 | 1,513 | 129,919 | 1,701 | 141,493 | 1,835 | 151,427 | 1,944 | 163,564 | 2,081 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 66,684 | 1,178 | 72,870 | 1,272 | 77,454 | 1,331 | 83,442 | 1,413 | 91,345 | 1,525 |
| East Midlands | 56,928 | 1,159 | 62,722 | 1,260 | 67,710 | 1,343 | 74,340 | 1,452 | 82,047 | 1,560 |
| West Midlands | 63,692 | 1,075 | 76,778 | 1,275 | 88,490 | 1,451 | 91,536 | 1,479 | 104,533 | 1,662 |
| East of England | 63,472 | 975 | 72,622 | 1,097 | 77,808 | 1,156 | 84,711 | 1,235 | 91,625 | 1,303 |
| London | 74,522 | 1,038 | 87,428 | 1,208 | 96,194 | 1,320 | 102,027 | 1,386 | 110,981 | 1,490 |
| South East Coast | 46,802 | 938 | 54,833 | 1,082 | 60,074 | 1,173 | 66,025 | 1,264 | 71,805 | 1,338 |
| South Central | 36,032 | 824 | 41,219 | 928 | 41,889 | 927 | 48,200 | 1,049 | 53,203 | 1,128 |
| South West | 70,278 | 1,145 | 77,755 | 1,250 | 83,415 | 1,315 | 88,393 | 1,365 | 98,509 | 1,492 |
| Unknown /no fixed abode | 6,908 | n/a | 8,787 | n/a | 9,082 | n/a | 12,400 | n/a | 9,656 | n/a |

*Number and rate of finished admissions of patients with an alcohol-related diagnosis*

| | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Strategic health authority* | *Number of admissions* | *Rate of admission per 100,000 population (EASR)* | *Number of admissions* | *Rate of admission per 100,000 population (EASR)* | *Number of admissions* | *Rate of admission per 100,000 population (EASR)* | *Number of admissions* | *Rate of admission per 100,000 population (EASR)* | *Number of admissions* | *Rate of admission per 100,000 population (EASR)* |
| England | 644,185 | 1,144 | 735,512 | 1,290 | 799,120 | 1,384 | 863,257 | 1,473 | 945,223 | 1,583 |

n/a = Not applicable.

*Notes:*

EASR - European Age-Standardised Rate.

Includes activity in English National Health Service Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Alcohol-specific condition

Alcohol-specific conditions are those defined as wholly attributed to alcohol, based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory. They are:

Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (142.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced) (K86.0)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)

Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-specific primary or secondary diagnosis These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-specific diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-specific diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

*Ungrossed data*

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

*Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. It should be noted that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

*Primary diagnosis*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

*Secondary diagnosis*

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

*Data quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*Assessing growth through time*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

*Assignment of Episodes to Years*

Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

## Ambulance Services

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the terms of reference of the national ambulance service management group. [305909]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** There is no record in the Department of any group that goes by that name.

There is a national NHS Ambulance Chief Executives Group. This is an NHS-led group which is chaired by the chief executive of London ambulance service, Peter Bradley.

## Ambulance Services: Equipment

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many requests for funding for protective vests for ambulance personnel have been made to his Department in the last two years; [305907]

(2) what trials of personal protective equipment have been initiated in the ambulance service in the last two years; when each such trial is expected to finish; and when the conclusions of these studies will be published; [305908]

(3) what representations he has received from frontline NHS ambulance trust staff on the issue of body armour in the last two years; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such representation. [305918]

**Ann Keen:** Information on requests made to the Department for funding for protective vests for ambulance personnel in the last two years is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on trials of personal protective equipment in the ambulance service in the last two years is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on representations made to the Department from frontline ambulance staff on the issue of body armour in the last two years is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The NHS Security Management Service (SMS) can assist employers through guidance on assessing risks and acting to protect staff and, where incidents do occur, on taking action against offenders. The NHS SMS also works with stakeholders, including the Social Partnership Forum, to promote the safety and security of NHS staff.

### Ambulances

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ambulance vehicles are based in each English county; what the ratio of ambulances to people is in each county; and if he will make a statement. [306417]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department does not collect centrally information on the numbers of ambulances or the ratio of ambulances to people in each English county. Each ambulance service should plan to provide appropriate resources to meet local demand.

### Animals: Health Hazards

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated by the National Health Service in each of the last five years for conditions contracted from animal faeces in public places. [305047]

**Gillian Merron:** It is not known how many people were treated for infections that were contracted from animal faeces in a public place, as this level of information is not collected. Though data on laboratory confirmed infections that can be transmitted through contact with animal faeces are available, the precise source of the majority of the infections is not known. This is because many of these infections can be transmitted through multiple routes and from a range of sources. Data on all the common infections that can be transmitted from animals to humans, including via animal faeces, are published by the Health Protection Agency.

### Autism

**Nigel Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with which Ministerial colleagues in each Department he has discussed the development in other Government Departments of the Government's autism strategy. [305731]

**Phil Hope:** The adult autism strategy spans not just health and social care but also provides a framework for services across the public sector. The Department has therefore undertaken an extensive programme of activity to ensure this work aligns with the existing work programmes of other Government Departments. Departmental officials have been working closely with colleagues across Government to assess:

> the merits of issues and proposals emerging from the consultation and external reference group or if there are more viable alternative means to deliver the same goals;
>
> the cost-effectiveness of options for action, and whether they can be integrated into existing budgets; and
>
> the scale of the offer which each Department can bring forward to improve access to services and transform and improve the life chances of people with Autistic Spectrum Condition.

The strategy will benefit from the same cross-Government coalition which has so successfully supported the delivery of "Valuing People Now".

**Nigel Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements his Department has made to involve external stakeholders in the post-consultation development of the Government's autism strategy. [305732]

**Phil Hope:** From the outset, the development of the autism strategy for adults has been underpinned by the two principles of co-production and inclusivity. The public consultation on the strategy was designed to ensure that people with Autistic Spectrum Condition, their families and carers could identify the barriers to access and their key priorities for change in public services.

The consultation which included regional events, on-line discussion forums and targeted engagement, aimed at hard-to-reach groups, received over 1,000 responses. These responses will set the direction of travel for the autism strategy.

The strategy will continue to benefit from the work of its external reference group comprising service users, family carers and the voluntary sector providers as well as professionals who design, develop and provide services.

There will be a further national consultation on the health and social care guidance, mandated by the legislation, which will accompany the strategy and is scheduled for publication in December 2012. We are equally committed to involving service users, carers and the voluntary sector in the production of the guidance.

The third sector, including user-led organisations, has a critical role to play as ambassadors for the strategy, supporting not just design but also delivery.

### Back Pain: Waiting Lists

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was to receive a spinal injection for the treatment of back pain conditions in each London acute hospital in the latest period for which figures are available. [305080]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he was first informed by Monitor of changes to its assessment of the quality of governance at Basildon and Thurrock NHS Foundation Trust. [303858]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Monitor told the Department on the 25 November 2009 that it was going to intervene at Basildon and Thurrock university hospitals NHS foundation trust. This notification followed Monitor's board meeting earlier that day, at which Monitor decided to use its statutory powers of intervention to address concerns about the trust's leadership and quality of care.

### Cancer: Health Services

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria were employed by the National Cancer Action Team during the decision-making process on a regional centre for head and neck cancer services for Worcestershire; for what reasons these criteria were selected; and if he will make a statement. [307233]

**Ann Keen:** The National Cancer Action Team (NCAT) does not make decisions about the establishment and location of cancer services or centres.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued Improving Outcomes Guidance (IOG) in November 2004 on the organisation of health care for adults with head and neck cancers. The guidance recommends which health care professionals should be involved in treatment and care, and the types of hospital or cancer centre that are best suited to provide that health care. It is for primary care trusts as commissioners of local services to implement this guidance in conjunction with their cancer networks, strategic health authorities and other stakeholders.

The role of the NCAT is to assess whether the plans submitted by a trust or a cancer network are compliant with IOG. Support for the Three Counties Cancer Network's implementation summary was provided because it was considered to be compliant with the IOG recommendations. To see further improvement in cancer services it is essential that IOG is fully implemented nationally.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has made for the future of acute hospital cancer services in Worcestershire; [307234]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of transferring head and neck cancer services from Worcestershire on service provision to patients within the geographical region; and if he will make a statement. [307235]

**Ann Keen:** It is the responsibility of Worcestershire Primary Care Trust to plan and develop appropriate services, including those for cancer, which will meet the needs of its resident population.

No assessment has been undertaken by the Department with regard to head and neck cancer services in the Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire areas. There are no firm proposals at present. However, once these have been developed we would expect them to be subject to formal public consultation.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates the Three Counties Cancer Network received submissions on the head and neck cancer treatment submissions from *(a)* Worcestershire Royal Hospital and *(b)* Gloucestershire Royal Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [307242]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not held centrally. The hon. Member may wish to approach the national health service organisations involved, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, for this information directly.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the report of the National Cancer Action Team on head and neck cancer services in Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire; and if he will make a statement. [307243]

**Ann Keen:** The National Cancer Peer Review programme conducted peer reviews of cancer services in the Three Counties Cancer Network, which includes Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, and published reports of the reviews in 2006 and 2008. The National Cancer Peer Review programme aims to improve care for people with cancer.

It is for primary care trusts in conjunction with their cancer networks, strategic health authorities and other stakeholders to assess the reports and take any necessary action to improve local services.

### Consultants: Greater London

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacant posts there are for accident and emergency consultants at each London acute hospital trust; and what proportion these figures represent of all such posts at each such trust. [305084]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally, but is held by individual acute trusts.

### Dementia

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* remit, *(b)* work programme and *(c)* membership is of the ministerial taskforce on dementia research; and if he will make a statement. [306046]

**Phil Hope:** I announced plans to establish a new ministerial group on dementia research following the very successful ministerial summit on dementia research held in July this year. The remit of the group will be to maintain the momentum begun at the summit by developing a new vision for the future of dementia research and advising on practicable ways to achieve that vision.

The group will cover the full spectrum of scientific research, including work on cause (including prevention), cure and care. Its detailed work programme is for the group to determine, but will be driven by three main objectives:

to devise ways to use available resources more effectively to help increase the volume and impact of high quality dementia research;

to develop a strategy for increasing public support for dementia research; and

to provide informed and authoritative advice on Government policy and wider national and international initiatives.

Membership is currently being finalised, but the group will include the key bodies with a stake in dementia research, including the main charities, the commercial sector and people living with dementia.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306064]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has not purchased any plasma screen televisions since 2001.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1688W, on Government communications, what the *(a)* job titles and *(b)* divisions are of each of the staff employed in his Department in an embedded communications role. [305027]

**Phil Hope:** There are currently 21 embedded communicators employed by the Department. Job titles and divisions are as follows:

*Commissioning and System Management*

Communications and Organisational Development Lead

*Work force*

Head of Communications

Medical Revalidation Communications Manager

Professional Standards Stakeholder and Communications Manager

Equality and Diversity Council Communications Manager

*NHS Medical Directorate*

Head of Communications Quality Framework

Modernising Medical Careers Communications

Vascular Checks Communications Manager

*Chief Nursing Officer*

Professional Communications Officer—Professional Leadership team

Communications Manager—Professional Leadership Team

Communications Manager—Healthcare Associated Infections and Cleanliness Policy Team (job share 0.6 wte)

Communications Manager—Healthcare Associated Infections and Cleanliness Policy Team (job share 0.6 wte)

*Policy and Strategy*

Health Inequalities Unit Communications Manager

Violence Against Women and Girls Communications manager

*Green Paper on Care and Support*

Head of Communications Strategy for the Care and Support White Paper

*National Carers Strategy*

Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Adviser

*Mental Health*

Communications Manager, Mental Health Division

*Public Health*

Briefing Officer (Drugs and Alcohol Program)

*Pandemic Influenza Preparedness*

Senior Information Officer

*Immunisation*

Head of Immunisation Information

Publisher

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what re-designs of websites operated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such re-design was. [306160]

**Phil Hope:** The Department operates three main websites:

The Department of Health corporate website (www.dh.gov.uk)

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk)

Connecting for Health (www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk).

Since 27 June 2007 each has undergone the following re-designs listed as follows, with the given costs and completion dates:

*The Department of Health corporate website*

Number of re-designs since 27 June 2007: 1

Date on which re-design was completed: 11 February 2008

Total cost: £513,000.00.

*NHS Choices*

Number of re-designs since 27 June 2007: 0

Date on which re-design was completed: Not applicable

Total cost: Nil.

*Connecting for Health*

Number of re-designs since 27 June 2007: 1

Date on which re-design was completed: July 2009

Total cost: All work was completed using internal resource and formed part of the ongoing maintenance of the site.

Since 27 June 2007 the Department has reduced the total number of websites that it operates from 196 to 71, to meets its obligations under Transformational Government. The Department will continue to reduce this number to just two websites by the Cabinet Office deadline of July 2011.

Given the high number of websites that were in existence between 27 June 2007 and December 2009, it is not possible to provide information on re-designs for all of these as this would incur disproportionate costs.

The Department has two executive agencies that each operate their own website. These are:

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA).

Since 27 June 2007 the MHRA website and the PASA website have not undergone any re-designs.

## Departmental Pay

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance related payment for senior civil servants in his Department was in cash terms in each of the last five years. [303072]

**Phil Hope** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: Non-consolidated performance payments are made under the terms set out in the Government's response to the recommendations of the independent Senior Salaries Review Body. A close and effective link between pay and performance and increased use of variable pay is a key element of the reward arrangements for the senior civil service. Over the last five years, average (median) and maximum non-consolidated payments have been:

| | *£* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| *2009-10 to date* | | |
| Total payments | 1,677,062 | 199 |
| Average (median) non-consolidated payment | 8,000 | |
| Highest non-consolidated payment | 27,500 | |
| *2008-09* | | |
| Total payments | 1,830,402 | 214 |
| Average (median) non-consolidated payment | 7,927 | |
| Highest non-consolidated payment | 49,004 | |
| *2007-08* | | |
| Total payments | 1,556,945 | 176 |
| Average (median) non-consolidated payment | 8,927 | |
| Highest non-consolidated payment | 27,500 | |
| *2006-07* | | |
| Total payments | 1,161,823 | 175 |
| Average (median) non-consolidated payment | 5,662 | |
| Highest non-consolidated payment | 30,699 | |
| *2005-06* | | |
| Total payments | 961,843 | 181 |
| Average (median) non-consolidated payment | 4,055 | |
| Highest non-consolidated payment | 30,000 | |

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has allocated to Maternity Matters programmes in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [305298]

**Ann Keen:** In January 2008, the Department announced an additional £330 million for maternity services to help support the implementation of Maternity Matters over the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11. This funding has been included in primary care trusts (PCT) baseline allocations. It is for PCTs to determine how best to use it, based on the needs of local maternity services.

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has allocated for NHS Baby Lifecheck in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [305299]

**Gillian Merron:** Expenditure on NHS Baby Lifecheck in 2009-10 is expected to be approximately £1.3 million. The allocation for NHS Lifecheck in 2010-11 is still under consideration.

## Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments the NHS Supply Chain has made to Fleishman-Hillard in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305165]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department does not hold this information.

The operation of NHS Supply Chain was outsourced to a DHL Group company, Exel Europe Ltd., following the signing of a Master Services Agreement in September 2006.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has made to *(a)* Weber Shandwick Public Affairs and *(b)* Citigate Public Affairs in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each contract under which such payments were made. [305421]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested is not held centrally. Payments made by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to individual companies are a matter for NICE as an independent body.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments the Food Standards Agency has made to Stratagem in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305425]

**Gillian Merron:** The Food Standards Agency has made 12 payments totalling £22,875.70 over the last 12 months to Stratagem. These payments were made to Stratagem for the purposes of public affairs support and stakeholder management.

The contract will not be placed in the Library due to commercial considerations.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments the Food Standards Agency has made to Edelman in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305436]

**Gillian Merron:** There have been no payments made by the Food Standards Agency to Edelman in the last 12 months.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305518]

**Phil Hope:** Group and individual photos were taken of the ministerial team in November 2007. The cost for this photoshoot is not separately identifiable within our records.

Videos are sometimes produced in which Ministers appear as part of a wider production. The costs of such videos are not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 934W, on departmental ministerial duties, at what time on 27 October 2009 the Secretary of State *(a)* arrived at and *(b)* left Clarence House; and if he will make a statement. [306479]

**Phil Hope:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State did not visit Clarence House on 27 October 2009.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State did visit Clarence House on 29 October 2009, as is recorded in the Court Circular of that date.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305205]

**Phil Hope:** The Department's Communications Directorate currently maintains no '0870' phone numbers but runs or promotes four '0845' phone numbers and 188 '0800' phone numbers.

Information on any other telephone services that may be run on behalf of the Department is not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Records on the number of calls to individual numbers over the period requested are not available. Many of the numbers are received by the same campaign call centre and to collate records for individual phone numbers would incur disproportionate costs.

There are no alternative numbers available.

### Drugs: Misuse

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people attending accident and emergency departments in each region with *(a)* drug-related conditions and *(b)* injuries in which the misuse of drugs was a contributory cause in each of the last three years. [305009]

**Gillian Merron:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Family Nurse Partnership Programme

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of Family Nurse Partnership programme staff are health visitors; [306635]

(2) what the estimated total cost is of providing the Family Nurse Partnership scheme; and what estimate has been made of the average cost per family of the scheme; [306636]

(3) what his Department's plans are for expansion of the Family Nurse Partnership. [306637]

**Ann Keen:** Of all the family nurses currently employed in Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) sites, 54 per cent. had been in a health visiting post immediately prior to becoming a family nurse and 67 per cent. were currently registered health visitors.

A formative evaluation of implementation in the first 10 FNP sites is being conducted by Birkbeck college, university of London. This will conclude by 2011 and will include an assessment of costs. A report of findings from the second year was published on the Department for Children, Schools and Families research website in September this year, and this suggested that the cost of FNP per client for those completing the programme is around £4,500 over two and a half years.

The FNP is also being evaluated through a randomised controlled trial, led by the South East Wales Trials Unit at the School of Medicine, Cardiff university. This will test the impact of the FNP compared with other services on pregnancy and birth outcomes, on child health and development and on parental life course; and it will also assess costs, through an economic evaluation.

The FNP programme gives us a real opportunity to transform the life chances of some of our most vulnerable children. It has been shown in the United States to have strong and consistent short and long-term benefits for children and parents. Early learning in England suggests that the FNP can be delivered well by our skilled family nurses, that the programme is highly valued by clients, that fathers engage with it well, and that early impacts look promising.

We will be testing FNP in 50 sites across England by January 2010 and over 3,000 clients have enrolled on FNP to date. The Child Health Strategy, published in February 2009, said the Government wished to expand to 70 pilot sites by April 2011. This would allow capacity to deliver FNP to at least 7,000 families. The Child Health Strategy also said that if the research findings are positive we would like to see FNP offered to the most vulnerable first-time young mothers across England over the next decade.

### Health Services: Inspections

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* planned and *(b)* unannounced inspection visits the Care Quality Commission has conducted in each month since its inception; and how many (i) planned and (ii) unannounced inspection visits its predecessor organisations conducted in each year since 1997-98. [304769]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Care Quality Commission has provided the following information.

The information is not available in the format requested.

The Care Quality Commission has completed the following inspections of health and social care providers since 1 April 2009.

| | 2009-10 (up to 30 October 2009) | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *April* | *May* | *June* | *July* | *August* | *September* | *October* | *Total* |
| Key inspections completed | 1,206 | 1,325 | 1,426 | 1,396 | 1,181 | 1,157 | 827 | [1]8,788 |
| Of those, the number which were announced | 107 | 90 | 41 | 47 | 54 | 73 | 30 | [2]526 |

[1] This includes 84 inspections of NHS trusts and 186 healthcare associated infection inspections that are not broken down monthly.

[2] This includes 84 inspections of NHS trusts that are not broken down monthly.

The figures do not include an additional 214 inspections of independent health care providers (143 announced) which are currently under way and not yet completed.

The figures also do not include joint inspections with Ofsted relating to safeguarding. These commenced in June and 11 have been completed.

The following table shows the number of inspections carried out by the National Commission for Social Care and the Commission for Social Care Inspection in previous years.

| | *2002-03*[1] | *2003-04*[1] | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07*[2] | *2007-08*[3] | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Key inspections completed | 41,434 | 46,768 | 48,062 | 47,341 | 26,676 | 19,059 | 15,072 |
| Of those, the number which were announced | 25,606 | 24,226 | 25,233 | 13,824 | 1,734 | 626 | 303 |

[1] During 2002-03 and 2003-04 the inspections were carried out by the National Care Standards Commission. From 2004-05 to 2008-09 the inspections were carried out by the Commission for Social Care Inspection.

[2] The reduction in the number of inspections is due to changes in methodology, changes to statutory inspection frequency plus a focus on poorer performing services.

[3] The further reduction in inspection numbers is due to the transfer of responsibility for regulation of children's services to Ofsted from 1 April 2007.

The following table shows the total number of inspections of independent health care providers for the previous three years carried out by the Healthcare Commission.

| | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Inspections completed | 412 | 865 | 402 |
| Of those, the number which were announced | 373 | 628 | 139 |

[1] The reduction in inspections in 2008-09 was due to changes in methodology.

In addition, the following table shows the total number of NHS trusts inspected by the Healthcare Commission against core standards.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 79 |
| 2008-09 | 84 |

*Note:*

This is not the number of individual visits. Some trusts had more than one visit as part of an inspection.

The following table shows the number of health care associated inspections of NHS trusts carried out by the Healthcare Commission. These are all unannounced.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 120 |
| 2008-09 | 190 |

*Note:*

This does not include follow-up visits.

These figures do not include service reviews, clinical audits, or any of the investigations undertaken by the Healthcare Commission.

## Health Visitors: East Sussex

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors have been employed in *(a)* Lewes constituency and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since 1997. [307129]

**Ann Keen:** The number of health visitors in the East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust area (PCT) which includes the Lewes constituency as at 30 September for each year that data are available is shown in the following table.

*East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT*

| | *Headcount* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 91 |
| 2003 | 84 |
| 2004 | 75 |
| 2005 | 81 |
| 2006 | 42 |
| 2007 | 72 |
| 2008 | 70 |

*Notes:*

1. East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT was formed in October 2006 from a complete merger of Eastbourne Downs PCT and Sussex Downs and Weald PCT. Figures for 2002-06 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.
2. The NHS Information Centre are aware of the drop in numbers for 2006. It is possible that Eastbourne Downs PCT failed to include around 30 health visitors in its census return for 2006. The census return was fully validated and confirmation that the return was accurate was received from the organisation prior to publication of the figures.

*Source:*

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census

## Health Visitors: Training

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much on average it cost his Department to fund a one-year degree-level health visitor course for a qualified nurse in 2008-09. [305261]

**Ann Keen:** The average cost of funding a one-year degree-level health visitor course for a qualified nurse in 2008-09 is not held centrally.

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department incurred on training and professional development for health visitors in the last three years. [305262]

**Ann Keen:** Information on expenditure incurred on training and professional development for health visitors in the last three years is not held centrally.

This information can be provided by SHA workforce education commissioning teams.

## Hearing Aids: Waiting Lists

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was to receive a digital hearing aid in each London primary care trust (PCT) area in the latest period for which information is available; and how many people are waiting to receive a digital hearing aid in each such PCT area. [305079]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** This information is not held centrally.

## Hospital Beds: Greater London

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times patients requiring intensive care services have been unable to obtain an intensive care bed at each London acute hospital in the last 12 months. [305083]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** This information is not held centrally.

## Hospital Beds: Surrey

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many beds there were in community hospitals in *(a)* Surrey, *(b)* Guildford and *(c)* Waverley in each year since 2001; [306521]

(2) how many beds in community hospitals were temporarily closed in *(a)* Surrey, *(b)* Guildford and *(c)* Waverley borough during each year since 2001. [306522]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested is not held centrally.

## Hospitals: Admissions

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* attendances at accident and emergency departments and *(b)* emergency admissions to other hospital departments were recorded in each month of each of the last three financial years. [305923]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Patients are not admitted to accident and emergency (A and E) departments; rather they are admitted via A and E to other departments within the hospital. The following table shows emergency admissions for each month of the last three financial years. Separate totals are shown for emergency admissions via A and E, and emergency admissions via other routes such as direct referrals to wards by general practitioners, bed bureaux and consultant out-patient clinics.

*Number of emergency admissions, England, 2006-07 to 2008-09*

*Thousand*

| | *Total via A and E* | *Total not via A and E* | *Total emergency admissions* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2006-07* | | | |
| April | 230.3 | 116.7 | 347.1 |
| May | 230.3 | 119.9 | 350.3 |
| June | 284.7 | 146.2 | 430.8 |
| July | 230.9 | 117.3 | 348.2 |
| August | 279.7 | 138.4 | 418.1 |
| September | 233.7 | 116.2 | 349.9 |
| October | 231.9 | 117.1 | 348.9 |
| November | 293.0 | 149.7 | 442.6 |
| December | 239.1 | 115.0 | 354.2 |
| January | 239.7 | 116.3 | 356.0 |
| February | 244.3 | 119.6 | 363.9 |
| March | 291.1 | 148.6 | 439.7 |
| *2007-08* | | | |
| April | 237.2 | 113.0 | 350.2 |
| May | 285.3 | 140.5 | 425.8 |
| June | 233.6 | 116.0 | 349.6 |
| July | 235.1 | 116.6 | 351.7 |
| August | 289.9 | 138.6 | 428.5 |
| September | 235.0 | 117.6 | 352.6 |
| October | 236.8 | 117.5 | 354.3 |
| November | 303.2 | 150.2 | 453.4 |
| December | 242.5 | 114.0 | 356.5 |
| January | 296.6 | 143.3 | 439.9 |
| February | 243.7 | 118.7 | 362.4 |
| March | 244.3 | 114.3 | 358.6 |
| *2008-09* | | | |
| April | 244.9 | 117.8 | 362.7 |
| May | 306.4 | 144.6 | 451.0 |
| June | 246.0 | 119.9 | 366.0 |
| July | 302.2 | 147.5 | 449.7 |
| August | 240.9 | 109.6 | 350.6 |
| September | 248.5 | 119.2 | 367.7 |
| October | 315.0 | 150.8 | 465.9 |
| November | 260.7 | 123.6 | 384.3 |
| December | 268.5 | 116.8 | 385.4 |
| January | 320.8 | 147.1 | 467.9 |
| February | 261.4 | 121.2 | 382.6 |
| March | 268.1 | 127.8 | 396.0 |

*Source:*
Department of Health dataset: Weekly SitReps

## Hospitals: Crimes of Violence

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency staff in hospitals in each region were assaulted while on duty in each of the last three years. [305014]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of accident and emergency staff who have been victims of assault while on duty is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of reported physical assaults against national health service staff in 2006-07 and 2007-08 is contained in the 'Tables showing number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff from 2004-05 to 2007-08, broken down by NHS trust/PCT' which have already been placed in the Library.

Information on the number of reported physical assaults against NHS staff in 2008-09 is contained in the 'Tables showing number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff in 2008-09, broken down by NHS trust/PCT' which have already been placed in the Library.

The NHS Security Management Service (SMS) can assist employers through guidance on assessing risks and acting to protect staff from assaults and, where incidents do occur, on taking action against offenders. The NHS SMS also works with stakeholders, including the Social Partnership Forum, to promote the safety and security of NHS staff.

## Hospitals: Death

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios for each general hospital in England. [304665]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios (HSMRs) for every non-specialist acute NHS trust in England are published each month on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk

## Impact Assessments

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Regulatory Impact Assessments published by his Department have considered *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four policy options since 1997. [304951]

**Phil Hope:** The information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Knives: Injuries

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were admitted to *(a)* the Royal Sussex Hospital, Brighton, *(b)* the Eastbourne District General Hospital, Eastbourne and *(c)* the Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath with knife wounds in each year since 1997. [306876]

**Gillian Merron:** Information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the count of finishes admission episodes where the external cause was for knife wounds at Brighton and Sussex University Hospital NHS Trust and East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust from 2002-03 (the earliest data available) to 2008-09.

*A count of finished admission episodes[1] where the external cause code[2] was knife wound at Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust and East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust[3] from 2002-03 to 2008-09[4]: Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

| | *Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust* | *East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust* |
|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 58 | 35 |
| 2007-08 | 71 | 51 |
| 2006-07 | 51 | 50 |
| 2005-06 | 47 | 51 |
| 2004-05 | 49 | 21 |
| 2003-04 | 57 | 32 |
| 2002-03 | 48 | 39 |

*Notes:*

1. *Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. *Cause code*

A supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode is counted in hospital episode statistics (HES). The codes used to define knife wound are:

W26 Contact with knife, sword or dagger

X99 Assault by sharp object

This code identifies assault by ANY sharp object and therefore includes but is not limited to assault with a knife.

3. *Hospital Provider*

A provider code is a unique code that identifies an organisation acting as a health care provider (e.g. NHS trust or primary care trust (PCT)). Hospital providers can also include Treatment Centres (TC). Normally, if data are tabulated by health care provider, the figure for an NHS trust gives the activity of all the sites as one aggregated figure. Some NHS trusts have not registered their TC as a separate site, and it is therefore not possible to identify their activity separately.

The parliamentary question asks for information on the following hospitals

the Royal Sussex Hospital, Brighton;

the Eastbourne District General Hospital, Eastbourne; and

the Princess Royal Hospital.

Data for the individual hospital sites are not available. However:

The Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton and the Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath form part of the Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust for which we have provided data.

The Eastbourne District General Hospital, Eastbourne is part of East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust for which we have provided data.

Due to organisational changes (both splits and mergers) data prior to 2002-03 are not comparable with that for later years at a trust level. For this reason we have not provided these figures as no meaningful time series is available.

4. *Assessing growth through time*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

5. *Data quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

## Lancashire Primary Care Trust

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of people being treated for depression in Lancashire primary care trust. [306673]

**Phil Hope:** The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of patients aged 18 years or over, recorded on practice disease registers with a diagnosis of depression for the Central Lancashire primary care trust (PCT).

*Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF)*

| | *Number of patients on depression register* |
|---|---|
| Central Lancashire PCT | 44,720 |

*Notes:*

1. The Information Centre for health and social care published the national QOF for England, which gives the number of people recorded on practice disease registers with a diagnosis of depression. The depression register only includes patients 18 years or over.
2. QOF is the national Quality and Outcomes Framework, introduced as part of the new general medical services contract on 1 April 2004.
3. Participation by practices in the QOF is voluntary, though participation rates are very high, with most personal medical services practices also taking part.
4. Patients will only contribute to the figures in QOF if they are registered with a general practice participating in QOF.
5. Most indicators in QOF have rules which allow for patients to be excluded (e.g. patient refuses treatment) and so the denominator for a given indicator may be less than the number of patients on the register for that disease.
6. The published QOF information was derived from QMAS; a national system developed by NHS Connecting for Health.
7. QMAS uses data from general practices to calculate individual practices' QOF achievement. QMAS is a national IT system developed by NHS Connecting for Health to support the QOF.
8. The QMAS system captures the number of patients on the various disease registers for each practice. The number of patients on the clinical registers can be used to calculate measures of disease prevalence, expressing the number of patients on each register as a percentage of the number of patients on practices' lists.

*Source:*

Quality Management Analysis System (QMAS database) 2008-09 data as at end of June 2009

## Legislation

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long it took in each case between the completion of an impact assessment relating to each Bill sponsored by his Department and First Reading of that Bill since 1997. [305974]

**Phil Hope:** The Department does not hold these data centrally.

## Maternity Services

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the recommendations of the NHS Neonatal Taskforce will be included as indicators in the 2009-10 NHS Operating Framework. [305911]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The 2010-11 NHS Operating Framework is currently being developed.

## Mental Capacity Act 2005

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he (i) has issued in the last 12 months and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequent on the provisions of the Mental Capacity Act 2005; and if he will make a statement. [303896]

**Phil Hope:** The statutory instruments (SI), departmental circulars, other documents issued in the last 12 months, consequent on the provisions of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 are shown as follows. There are no current plans to issue SIs in the next 12 months but there are plans to publish further guidance and possibly departmental circulars to support the implementation of the Act.

*Statutory instruments*

Issued in the last 12 months

1. Transitional arrangements were introduced via the Mental Health Act 2007 (Commencement No. 10 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2009 (SI 2009 No. 139), which were laid on 4 February 2009, to ease the handling of the then anticipated volume of assessments requested by managing authorities (care homes and hospitals) from supervisory bodies (local authorities and primary care trusts (PCTs)) following the implementation of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) on 1 April 2009.

2. Amending regulations to the NHS Bodies and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements Regulations 2000 were made via the NHS Bodies and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009 No. 278), which were laid on 18 February 2009. The Mental Capacity Act Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards are now included on the list of functions of NHS Bodies as a result of regulation 5 of that SI, thereby enabling PCTs to enter into formal partnership arrangements with a local authority under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006. Local authorities are enabled to carry out MCA DOLS functions on behalf of PCTs. Powers for LAs to enter into formal partnership arrangements with a PCT under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and for PCTs to carry out MCA DOLS functions on behalf of PCTs already existed.

3. The Mental Capacity (Deprivation of Liberty: Monitoring and Reporting; and Assessments Amendment) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009 No. 827), which were made on 31 March 2009, provide for the powers of the Care Quality Commission for the purpose of monitoring, or reporting on, the operation of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

*Departmental circulars*

Issued in the last 12 months

1. A Dear Colleague Letter was issued on 19 March 2009 to confirm the funding available to PCTs in 2009-10 to support the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_096559

2. LAC(DH)(2009)2 was issued on 24 March 2009 to confirm the funding available to LAs in 2009-10 to support the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/DH_096868

Copies of both documents have been placed in the Library.

*Other documents*

Issued in the last 12 months

*General guidance*

A range of guidance to support the implementation of the Act is available on dedicated pages on the Department's website and further guidance, for example, in relation to significant case law developments will be placed there over the next 12 months.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Deliveringadultsocialcare/MentalCapacity/MentalCapacityAct2005/index.htm

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Deliverin gadultsocialcare/MentalCapacity/MentalCapacityActDeprivationofLiberty Safeguards/index.htm

*Specific guidance*

Guidance was issued on 1 April 2009, on the Department's website and a copy has been placed in the Library, regarding arrangements under paragraph 183(4) of schedule A1 to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 between the Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers. They set out that, where questions about a person's ordinary residence arise in relation to which local authority should act as the supervisory body, the Secretary of State will determine cross-border ordinary residence disputes between England and Wales where the person to whom the dispute relates is accommodated in a care home in England. The Welsh Ministers will determine cross-border disputes where the person to whom the dispute relates is accommodated in a care home in Wales.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_097383

### Mental Health Services

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the Government will fulfil those commitments made in the National Service Framework for mental health that have not yet been fully implemented. [305914]

**Phil Hope:** The Mental Health National Service Framework reached the end of its 10-year lifespan in September 2009. It provided a blueprint for a genuine transformation in the delivery of services, and many of its objectives have been carried forward into New Horizons.

The cross-Government framework "New Horizons: A shared vision for mental health" was published on 7 December 2009 and is designed as a platform for future action across Government. It has been co-produced with a number of key external stakeholders, and sets out the expectation that services to treat and care for people with mental health problems will be accessible to everyone who needs them. A copy of the publication has already been placed in the Library.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Choose and Book system does not include mental health services; and in what ways the New Horizons initiative will address this issue. [305915]

**Phil Hope:** Mental health services are not excluded from Choose and Book. In November 2009, there were around 380 mental health services available in the Directory of Services, 85 per cent. of which were for adults. From September to November 2009, 10,751 mental health appointments were booked using Choose and Book. However, Choose and Book may not always be the most appropriate way in which appointments for mental health services can be booked; appropriate help should be offered to vulnerable patients who may be unable or unwilling to take the necessary steps to make a booking.

"New Horizons: A shared vision for mental health", published on 7 December 2009, is a significant cross-Government programme of action with the twin aims of improving the mental health and well-being of the population and improving the quality and accessibility of services for people with poor mental health. It is based on four key guiding values one of which is "being in control of our lives" and includes a commitment to continue to explore and cost further options for extending choice to mental health service users. A copy of the publication has already been placed in the Library.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what way the New Horizons initiative will clarify entitlements to support and treatment for those with mental health problems. [305916]

**Phil Hope:** The consultation document on New Horizons, published in July this year, outlined the features of high-quality mental health care, which support the recovery of everyone who experiences mental ill health, including timely access to high-quality services. "New Horizons: A shared vision for mental health" published on 7 December 2009, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, stresses the need to improve access to mental health services for socially excluded groups. It includes commitments to work with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on developing further quality standards in mental health, and to exploring options that would help increase personalisation and choice for mental health service users.

New Horizons has been developed in collaboration with strategic health authorities and is consistent with their regional visions for mental health.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department is involving service users in designing Payment by Results for mental health. [305917]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Service users have been involved in developing Payment by Results (PbR) for mental health at an early stage. A study by the University of Huddersfield, "Exploring the Impact of a Clinical Decision Support Tool from the Perspective of Service Users & Carers" (available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/5092), used focus groups to identify what service users thought of an early iteration of the mental health currency work. The study highlighted service users' desire to be involved in the care planning process that is linked to mental health PbR. We therefore expect, as mental health PbR is implemented, that service users will be very involved in the identification and agreement of local care packages and pathways to meet their own needs as part of care planning. User representatives will also be consulted on key aspects of the further development of the approach to PbR for mental health.

### MMR Vaccine: Basingstoke

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of children in Basingstoke under the age of five years received two doses of MMR vaccine in each quarter of the last 10 years. [305365]

**Gillian Merron:** The Health Protection Agency (HPA) publishes quarterly data under the COVER (cover of vaccination evaluated rapidly) programme.

Data are not available for Basingstoke itself, and the organisation responsible for primary care for Basingstoke has changed following national health service reorganisations. Up to 2002, North and Mid Hampshire health authority (HA) was responsible; for 2002 to 2006 it was North Hampshire primary care trust (PCT); and from 2006 it has been Hampshire PCT.

| *Quarter evaluated* | *PCT name* | *Number of children with 5th birthday in quarter* | *Percentage received MMR2 by 5th birthday* |
|---|---|---|---|
| October to December 2002 | North Hampshire PCT | 728 | 76.4 |
| January to March 2003 | North Hampshire PCT | 827 | 77.3 |
| April to June 2003 | North Hampshire PCT | 608 | 82.1 |
| July to September 2003 | North Hampshire PCT | 659 | 82.5 |
| October to December 2003 | North Hampshire PCT | 604 | 81.8 |
| January to March 2004 | North Hampshire PCT | 622 | 83.3 |
| April to June 2004 | North Hampshire PCT | 653 | 83.8 |
| July to September 2004 | North Hampshire PCT | 619 | 79.5 |
| October to December 2004 | North Hampshire PCT | 547 | 80.8 |
| January to March 2005 | North Hampshire PCT | 574 | 81.2 |
| April to June 2005 | North Hampshire PCT | 558 | 84.2 |
| July to September 2005 | North Hampshire PCT | 610 | 84.4 |
| October to December 2005 | North Hampshire PCT | 573 | 81.3 |
| January to March 2006 | North Hampshire PCT | 552 | 88.4 |
| April to June 2006 | North Hampshire PCT | 582 | 80.9 |
| July to September 2006 | North Hampshire PCT | 569 | 80.0 |
| October to December 2006 | Hampshire PCT | 3,415 | 79.4 |
| January to March 2007 | Hampshire PCT | 2,304 | 79.4 |
| April to June 2007 | Hampshire PCT | 2,649 | 79.6 |
| July to September 2007 | Hampshire PCT | 3,494 | 80.4 |
| October to December 2007 | Hampshire PCT | 3,461 | 79.4 |
| January to March 2008 | Hampshire PCT | 3,367 | 79.3 |
| April to June 2008 | Hampshire PCT | 3,626 | 83.2 |
| July to September 2008 | Hampshire PCT | 3,736 | 82.5 |
| October to December 2008 | Hampshire PCT | 3,642 | 83.0 |
| January to March 2009 | Hampshire PCT | 3,644 | 83.3 |
| April to June 2009 | Hampshire PCT | 3,681 | 84.4 |

Prior to 2002, vaccine coverage data were published annually. Annual Measles Mumps and Rubella 2 (MMR2) coverage data at age five years by HA were published by the Department's Statistics Division for the fiscal years (1 March to 31 April) 1999-2000 to 2001-02. During this period Basingstoke was part of North and Mid Hampshire HA.

*North and Mid Hampshire HA*

| | *Denominator* | *MMR2 coverage at five years (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 7,468 | 78 |
| 2000-01 | 7,278 | 73 |
| 2001-02 | 7,168 | 73 |

### NHS Business Services Authority

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to withhold approval from the NHS Business Services Authority for the outsourcing of its IT and dental services contract until a full appraisal of the in-house option is conducted. [305359]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** On 27 November 2009, Ministers approved the business case for the award of the contract for the supply of dental contract support services and IT infrastructure to the NHS Business Services Authority ("the Authority") to Capita Group Plc. The Authority expects to sign the contract on 14 December 2009 subject to final approval by the board of the Authority on 10 December 2009.

In preparing its business case, the Authority examined its existing in-house capability and considered it was not capable of delivering the full set of business requirements set out in that case. In the circumstances, a further appraisal of the in-house option would not be appropriate.

### NHS Direct: Marketing

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Central Office of Information press release of 17 July 2008 entitled NHS Direct Unveils New Identity, what the cost to the public purse was of the creation of the new brand identity for NHS Direct. [305026]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The total spend on the NHS Direct rebrand was £160,478.

### NHS: Drugs

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account will be taken of patient safety within the health impact assessment element of the overall impact assessment accompanying the forthcoming consultation on proposals to introduce automatic generic substitution; and whether the health impact assessment will be published within the overall impact assessment. [305910]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Patient safety will be absolutely paramount in taking forward the work on generic substitution. We are currently finalising the impact assessment that will be published as part of the consultation exercise which will begin shortly.

## NHS: Finance

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each NHS trust and NHS foundation trust in England received for the provision of private patient services in the latest period for which figures are available. [304723]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested has been placed in the Library

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much debt each NHS trust in England has; and how much each NHS trust in England has spent on debt interest in each of the last three years. [305919]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Information on the total amount owed by national health service trusts in respect of bank overdrafts, current and long-term loans, obligations under finance leases and private finance initiative (PFI) arrangements, and the interest cost in respect of these items for the last three years has been placed in the Library.

## NHS: Greater London

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the financial performance of each London *(a)* acute hospital trust and *(b)* primary care trust. [305078]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** This information is published in the quarter, a copy of which is published on the Department website at the following location:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_087335

A copy of this has been placed in the Library.

## NHS: ICT

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what legal firms his Department used to draft the contracts for the National Programme for IT; and for what period each was contracted. [304238]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Allen and Overy, and DLA (subsequently DLA Piper), were appointed in December 2002 to participate in the drafting and negotiation of contracts which formed the National Programme for IT, and were entered into between October 2003 and January 2004. These were the five original local service provider contracts, together with the Spine, N3 network, and e-booking (later Choose and Book) contracts.

Since that time the Department has continued to receive legal support from DLA Piper in connection with the work of the programme. The appointment of Allen and Overy ceased in June 2006.

## NHS: Procurement

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the result was of the Strategic Review of Collaborative Procurement in the NHS; and if he will publish the report of the review. [304250]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Strategic Review of the Collaborative Procurement Hub Programme was undertaken by Ernst and Young in the second half of 2007 and was intended to inform a wider assessment of commercial capability across the Department and the national health service. This wider assessment took place during 2008 and resulted in publication of "Necessity—not Nicety", a new commercial operating model for the NHS and the Department.

A copy of the report of the Strategic Review of the Collaborative Procurement Hub Programme presented to the Department by Ernst and Young has been placed in the Library.

This report is also available on the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency's website, via the following link:

www.pasa.nhs.uk/pasa/Doc.aspx?Path=[MN][SP]/NHSprocurement/National%20procurement/Strategic%20Review%20of%20CPHs_080417.pdf

A copy of "Necessity—not Nicety" has also been placed in the Library:

This document is also available on the Department's corporate website, via the following link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_098876

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the terms of reference are of the joint OGC and NHS Purchasing Supply Review; when the review will be completed; and whether the results of the review will be published. [304251]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The title of the review was "The Office of Government Commerce's Procurement Capability Review of the Department of Health". The final report was published by the Office of Government Commerce in November 2008.

The terms of reference of the review have been placed in the Library.

The following documents have already been placed in the Library:

procurement Capability Review Programme—Department of Health

procurement Capability Review Programme Improvement Plan—Department of Health

OGC Procurement Capability Reviews Tranche Three Overview report

## NHS: Standards

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions he has been informed by *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies of (i) patient safety concerns and (ii) management failings relating to NHS trusts in the last 12 months. [303813]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not routinely bring together individual pieces of information from strategic health authorities and non-departmental public bodies which might be classified as "patient safety concerns" and "management failings" and count them.

## Nurses: Temporary Employment

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bank or agency nurses are engaged by each London acute hospital trust; and what proportion this figure represents of the nursing staff in each such trust. [305081]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally, but is held by individual acute trusts.

### Nurses: Training

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department incurred on training and professional development for nurses in the last three years. [305260]

**Ann Keen:** Expenditure incurred by strategic health authorities (SHAs) on training and development for nurses in the last three years is shown in the table.

*Multi-professional education and training expenditure on nurses*

*£ million*

| | *Tuition costs* | *Bursary costs*[1, 2] | *Total costs* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 658.3 | 352.8 | 1,011.0 |
| 2007-08 | 635.1 | 354.0 | 989.1 |
| 2008-09 | 568.3 | 352.4 | 920.6 |

[1] Excludes Nil award holders, i.e. EU fees-only students and students whose living allowance element of the bursary has been reduced to nil after income assessment.

[2] Includes the basic award, all supplementary allowances and all one-off payments, e.g. reimbursement of practice placement costs. Recoveries of bursaries are not included for students leaving a course or for fraud.

*Source:*

SHA Quarterly financial management information systems data

NHS Student Bursaries Scheme database—NHS Business Services Authority

### Oesophagectomy

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to continue minimally-invasive oesophagectomy (MIO) research conducted at the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital in the event that MIO procedures are moved from that hospital to Derriford hospital. [306569]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** This is a matter for the local national health service.

However, we are advised that the ongoing research projects into minimally invasive surgery for upper gastrointestinal (GI) cancer surgery at the Royal Devon and Exeter Foundation Trust will continue following the centralisation of upper GI cancer surgery for the South West peninsula at Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the long-term survival rate for *(a)* minimally-invasive oesophagectomy and *(b)* open oesophagectomy is; [306570]

(2) what the mortality rate for *(a)* minimally-invasive oesophagectomy and *(b)* open oesophagectomy is; [306571]

(3) what the average recovery time for *(a)* minimally-invasive oesophagectomy and *(b)* open oesophagectomy is. [306572]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Information on the recovery rate and long-term survival rate for minimally-invasive oesophagectomy and open oesophagectomy is not held centrally.

The 30-day mortality rate for minimally-invasive oesophagectomy was 3.4 per cent. and for open oesophagectomy was 3.1 per cent. This information is from the second annual report of the National Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit (NOGCA), which was published in October 2009. The publication is available on the NHS Information Centre for health and social care website at

www.ic.nhs.uk/og

It is important to note that the second annual report's data do not cover all eligible patients as the audit does not close for submissions until February 2010, and not all eligible trusts have participated.

### Patient Choice Schemes

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who has responsibility within the NHS for judging a patient's entitlement and eligibility to use the patient transfer service; [307432]

(2) which NHS bodies are responsible for paying for a patient to use the patient transfer service. [307433]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** A patient's eligibility for non-emergency patient transport service (PTS) should be determined either by a health care professional or by non-clinically qualified staff who are both:

clinically supervised and/or working within locally agreed protocols or guidelines, and

employed by the national health service or working under contract for the NHS.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning ambulance services (which could include PTS) to such extent as the PCT considers necessary to meet all reasonable requirements of the area for which they are legally charged with providing services. PCTs are therefore ultimately responsible for the costs of PTS.

### Plastic Surgery: Internet

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of websites advertising botulinum toxin, fillers and other non-surgical cosmetic procedures for sale to people in England. [306518]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department of Health and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) do not routinely collect information on websites advertising botulinum toxin, fillers and other non-surgical cosmetic procedures for sale to people in the United Kingdom.

However, the MHRA regulates the advertising of medicines, including botulinum toxin products where it is a licensed medicine. The cosmetic use of Botox® is outside the product's licensed indications. The administration of injectable medicines such as Botox® (whether or not for cosmetic use) is restricted. Unless self-administered, they may only be administered by an independent practitioner or a person acting in accordance with the patient-specific directions of an independent prescriber. The MHRA will take appropriate action on receipt of any complaint about websites advertising botulinum toxin as a cosmetic treatment.

### Prescription Drugs

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the spending per head on GP-prescribed *(a)* tranquillisers and *(b)* anti-depressants was in (i) each primary care trust area and (ii) England in each of the last three years. [306578]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The average net ingredient cost per head of population, for each primary care trust in England, for the dispensing of prescriptions written by general practitioners for tranquillisers and anti-depressants, has been placed in the Library.

Tranquillisers are defined as all those items appearing in paragraph 4.1.2 Anxiolytics of the British National Formulary (BNF) and anti-depressants defined as those items appearing in section 4.3 Antidepressant drugs of the BNF.

In October 2006, there was a re-organisation of primary care trusts (PCTs) and the 303 PCTs became 152 with some being abolished, others continuing and new ones being created. It is therefore not possible to give figures per head for each PCT in 2006-07. They have therefore not been included in the response.

### Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 547W, on prescriptions: fees and charges, how many patients have identified cancer and another condition on their FP92A application form since 1 April 2009; and how many such patients identified each other condition. [305258]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** This information is not available. The NHS Business Services Authority's processing system only captures the first ticked box on the medical exemption application form.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department expects to *(a)* publish and *(b)* respond to Professor Ian Gilmore's review of prescription charges. [306534]

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the report of the review by Professor Ian Gilmore into prescription charges will be published; and if he will make a statement. [307148]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Professor Gilmore has now submitted his report on the prescription charges review to the Department of Health. His recommendations are now being considered by the Department. We will publish the review's report and our response to the recommendations in the new year.

### Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Finance

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* funding and *(b)* capital funding allocation was made to each hospital site within the Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each year since 1997. [306674]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested is a matter for the Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Tracy Doucet, Chair of Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, informing her of the hon. Member's question. She will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

### Social Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the working data and assumptions behind table 1 in the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill. [304790]

**Phil Hope:** The data used to produce table 1 of the Impact Assessment is from the English Longitudinal Study of Aging, Wave 3. This is a publicly available source and can be accessed at:

www.esds.ac.uk/findingdata/snDescription.asp?sn=5050 &key=sn+505

People under the age of 65 were removed from the sample. Then a logistic model of the need for formal care was estimated on the basis of each person's age, age squared, limitations in activities of daily living (ADL dependency) and whether or not they live alone (as a proxy for receipt of informal care). Fitted values from this logit model were used to produce a continuous variable for each person's level of need. The sample was then ranked in order of their predicted need on this variable, and the needs of the top 4.7 per cent. were assumed to be critical under Fair Access to Care Services (FACS)—this uses the Personal Social Services Research Unit's approach to defining those who are FACS critical, which draws on findings in the Commission for Social Care Inspection report, 'The State of Social Care in England 2007-08', published in January 2009.

The 204 sample members classified as FACS critical in this way were then grouped into those reporting difficulty with different total numbers of activities of daily living, as shown in table 1 of the Impact Assessment.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to table 2 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, from which pages of the English Longitudinal Study of Aging Wave 3 he derived the numbers of people *(a)* receiving state-funded care and *(b)* making a means-tested contribution. [304791]

**Phil Hope:** The numbers of individuals whose needs are critical under Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) estimated to be receiving state-funded care and making a means-tested contribution are taken from the Personal Social Services Research Unit's micro-simulation model for older people.

The estimated numbers in each of these groups have then been narrowed down to those FACS critical individuals with difficulty with four or more activities of daily living by using the percentages shown in table 1 of the Impact Assessment, which are derived from the English Longitudinal Study of Aging (ELSA). They were produced by secondary analysis of the ELSA data—which are publicly available—and not drawn from a published report.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to table 2 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what methodology was used to calculate the number of people described as *(a)* self-funding plus unmet need, *(b)* residential care switchers and *(c)* informal care switchers. [304792]

**Phil Hope:** The number of individuals estimated to be self-funders or those with unmet need is taken from the Personal Social Services Research Unit's micro-simulation model for older people. An extra 25 per cent. was added to both the volume and the estimated cost from their model to bring it closer into line with alternative estimates of the numbers of severely disabled older people purchasing private home care. This seemed prudent in view of the inevitable uncertainty about the impact of free care on demand and the consequent risk of under-estimating costs.

Residential care switchers were estimated by using a simple model of the likely flows into and out of a steady state stock of individuals in residential care. It is assumed that not all individuals entering care homes under the current system will either choose or be eligible to receive personal care at home under the new system (i.e. because their needs may be too great). We do not know exactly what proportion of these individuals will choose to receive their care at home rather than enter residential care, but for illustrative purposes we have assumed a figure of 10 per cent.

Informal care switchers were estimated by removing the 'living alone' variable from the logistic regression equation used to predict individuals' level of need for formal care and re-running the model to estimate the additional volume of individuals who would be classified as critical under Fair Access to Care Services if everybody hypothetical lived alone. We do not know what proportion of these individuals would actually have their informal care arrangements withdrawn in order to qualify for free personal care, but for illustrative purposes we have assumed a figure of 5 per cent.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to table 2 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, for what reasons the figure given for informal care switchers is 50 per cent. of the estimated number of informal care switchers. [304793]

**Phil Hope:** We do not know how many potential informal care switchers, as estimated under assumptions detailed in the Impact Assessment, have difficulties with activities of daily living (ADLs). Therefore, we have assumed that 50 per cent. of potential switchers have difficulty with four or more ADLs—and actually switch—and 50 per cent. have difficulty with less than four ADLs and do not switch since they would not qualify for free personal care.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to Annex A of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, from what source the estimate that 5 per cent. of people would have informal care withheld is derived. [304799]

**Phil Hope:** This is a working assumption. It relates to older people whose needs are not assessed as critical under Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) while receiving informal care, but would become FACS critical if they ceased to receive informal care. Comments on its validity are welcomed as part of the consultation on regulations and guidance, "Personal Care at Home: a consultation for proposals on regulation and guidance", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 4.5 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what estimate he has made of the number of people who constitute the significant number whose status will change through reablement; from what source the data underlying that estimate were derived; and what assumptions have been made in making the estimate. [304841]

**Phil Hope:** Studies by the Care Services Efficiency Delivery programme on reablement domiciliary care services have shown that up to 50 per cent. of older people who were offered a short term package of reablement did not require any further support at the end of their treatment[1]. However, as there are uncertainties about the long-term impact of reablement on the need for care, we cannot make an accurate forecast at this current time. That is why the impact assessment does not take into account the benefits of reablement, even though these are likely to be substantial.

[1] *Source:*

Department of Health, 2009: Use of Resources in Adult Social Care: a guide for local authorities.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 5.25 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what the two supply-side failures referred to are. [304856]

**Ann Keen:** The supply-side failures referred to in paragraph 5.25 are the under-provision of insurance coverage and higher prices for those who do take out insurance. Insurance companies wishing to offer insurance for personal care will make an assessment of the likelihood that people will require such services and offer a product at a price based on the average probability of need.

People who view themselves as being at a low risk of needing personal care will not be attracted by an insurance product at an average price and would only buy one at a low price. Those who see themselves as high risk will see an insurance product offered at a price based on the average probability as good value for money and are likely to purchase it.

As a result, insurance companies are aware that an average priced policy will adversely select high-risk customers and so do not offer it. They may offer products at a higher price to reflect the higher risk of customers they do attract. In an extreme case, this could result in complete market collapse as the remaining customers respond to higher prices by deciding not to purchase insurance. In response, insurance companies raise prices further and eventually there are no purchasers left.

In addition, insurance companies and individuals may make a different assessment of the risk of a person needing personal care, owing to their having less information about a person's risk than the individual themselves.

Insurance companies may respond to the problem by attempting to gather information about customers to set individually tailored prices to their products. Gathering information is costly and insurance companies pass this on through higher premiums. This can be compounded if the pool of customers taking insurance becomes smaller as insurance companies have to spread their fixed costs over a small number of people, further raising the price that customers have to pay.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the change in the number of assessments conducted by local authorities as a result of enactment of the proposals set out in the Personal Care at Home Bill; what estimate he has made of the effect of that change on costs; and whether local authority funding would be adjusted accordingly. [304943]

**Phil Hope:** The costs associated with increasing numbers of assessments have been included in the administrative component of Table 2 in the impact assessment. In the absence of firm data on this, we have assumed that the average cost of an assessment is £200 and that 135,000 extra individuals will be assessed per year, giving an overall cost estimate of £27 million per year, as shown in Table 2 of the impact assessment. This has been included in the estimate overall annual costs of £670 million per year in 2011-12 prices.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 5.25 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what assessment he has made of the extent to which people believe that the state will be the insurer of last resort. [305696]

**Phil Hope:** Paragraph 5.25 of the impact assessment discusses the lack of a private insurance market for personal care services and the reasons why this may be the case. One of the reasons for this may be that individuals believe that the welfare state acts as a safety net for them and so they do not need to make provision for themselves. The Government have not attempted to quantify this specifically.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 5.27 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, how many times impact assessments conducted by his Department have cited websites. [305756]

**Phil Hope:** The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* factors he took into account and *(b)* research his Department undertook in determining the scope of his legislative proposals relating to personal care. [305975]

**Phil Hope:** The factors taken into account are set out in the impact assessment, which was published with the current consultation document, "Personal Care at Home: a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance". Both documents are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_109139

Copies have already been placed in the Library.

As set out in the impact assessment, the research undertaken in the English Longitudinal Study of Aging identifies the potential number of people living at home who may qualify for free personal care.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 6.2 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, for what reason the distributional effect of providing insurance cover is included in the impact assessment. [305978]

**Phil Hope:** The impact assessment discusses a range of benefits of the proposals. One benefit is the distributional effect of providing free personal care to those in highest need, the beneficiaries of which are a sub-section of the population. A second benefit is the extension of Government-provided insurance to cover free personal care to those in highest need. The population as a whole derives a benefit from the extension as people know with certainty they will receive free personal care if they find themselves in need, as set out in the proposal.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has made an estimate of the average volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from reablement schemes as set out in the Personal Care at Home Bill. [305979]

**Phil Hope:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 497W.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 6.3 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, how many impact assessments conducted by his Department since 1997 have included mitigation of the general reluctance to pay taxes. [305996]

**Phil Hope:** The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 7.5 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what estimate he has made of the differences in levels of informal care provided by different care settings. [306020]

**Phil Hope:** Paragraph 7.5 of the impact assessment sets out current thinking. An equality impact assessment screening has been undertaken and published with the consultation document, "Personal care at home: a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance". Both documents are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_109139

Copies have already been placed in the Library.

A full equality impact assessment will be undertaken prior to the implementation of the policy.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, if he will publish in full modelling commissioned by his Department from the Personal Social Services Research Unit. [306480]

**Phil Hope:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to him on 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 552W, on social services.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent revisions have been made to the financial assumptions underpinning the Government's financial modelling for a National Care Service as a result of the pledge that there will be no cash losers amongst existing disability benefit recipients. [307198]

**Phil Hope:** None. As we said in the Green Paper "Shaping the future of care and support together", if we reform disability benefits, anyone receiving an affected benefit at the time of reform would continue to receive the equivalent level of support and protection.

Our working assumptions in the financial modelling have consistently been that nobody will experience a cash loss as a result of the reforms.

### South East Coast Strategic Health Authority

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the capitation cost of the chairman of the South East Coast strategic health authority was in the last year for which figures are available; and how many days she spent working for the authority in that year. [304137]

**Gillian Merron:** The chair of the South East Coast strategic health authority (SHA) was appointed from 1 May 2009 with remuneration at the national rate set by the Government of £4[illegible]131 for 2009-10. The chair committed to working at least three days a week for the SHA.

### South East Coast Strategic Health Authority: Expenditure

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* budgeted and *(b)* outturn expenditure of the NHS South East Coast health authority was in each of the last four years. [306768]

**Gillian Merron:** The following table shows the revenue resource limit and net operating costs for the South East Coast strategic health authority (SHA). The revenue resource limit represents the total amount of revenue expenditure that an SHA can incur during the financial year. Net operating costs represent the total net revenue expenditure actually incurred by the SHA during the financial year. For 2005-06, we have provided data for the two predecessor SHAs: Kent and Medway SHA and Surrey and Sussex SHA.

*SHA revenue resource limit and net operating costs*

| *SHA name* | — | *Revenue resource limit (£000)* | *Net operating costs (£000)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kent and Medway SHA | 2005-06 | 92,000 | 70,657 |
| Surrey and Sussex SHA | 2005-06 | 137,733 | 125,774 |
| South East Coast SHA | 2006-07 | 252,490 | 222,113 |
| South East Coast SHA | 2007-08 | 314,176 | 276,034 |
| South East Coast SHA | 2008-09 | 313,025 | 273,049 |

*Note:*
South East Coast SHA was created on 1 July 2006 from the merger of Surrey and Sussex SHA and Kent and Medway SHA
*Source:*
SHA Audited Summarisation Schedules 2005-06 to 2008-09.

### South East Coast Strategic Health Authority: Pay

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the salary of the chief executive of the NHS South East Coast health authority is. [306736]

**Gillian Merron:** Information about the remuneration of the chief executive of the South East Coast strategic health authority (SHA) is available in the SHA's "Annual Report 2008-09", a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

### Surgery: Technology

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to refer the CyberKnife robotic radiosurgery system to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for evaluation. [305392]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** We have no such plans. Stakeholders can submit topic suggestions for National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance through the NICE website at:

www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/suggestatopic/suggest_a_topic.jsp

We understand that the National Radiotherapy Implementation Group is considering whether it would be helpful to develop guidance for the national health service on the use of stereotactic radiotherapy more generally.

### Swine Flu: Vaccination

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1183W, on swine flu: vaccination, what criteria his Department provided to Morianto in respect of the distribution of the swine flu vaccine. [307199]

**Gillian Merron:** The initial distribution of vaccine was targeted at acute and other national health service trusts for health care workers' vaccination. A box of GlaxoSmithKline vaccine was then distributed to general practitioner (GP) surgeries across the country so that the vaccination of clinical risk groups could start. Subsequently, primary care trusts have been able to order vaccine for GP surgeries and NHS organisations, based on the population they are responsible for.

### Therapy: Domestic Violence

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Home Department's "Together we can end violence against women and girls" strategy, how much his Department plans to spend on the pilot site of the Multisystemic Therapy Programme at the Brandon Centre in North London in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* each of the subsequent three years; and from what budget such expenditure will be drawn. [305309]

**Ann Keen:** The Department is co-funding the Multisystemic Therapy Programme for Problem Sexual Behaviour at the Brandon Centre for a three-year period from 2009-10 to 2011-12. This funding amounts to £250,000 in 2009-10 and £300,000 in both 2010-11 and 2011-12. There is currently no commitment to funding from the Department after this date.

This commitment to develop pilot sites of Multisystemic Therapy was made originally in the 2007 Social Exclusion Action Plan, Action 20, and is drawn from the Department's Health Inequalities and Partnerships Directorate budget, with additional funding provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Youth Justice Board.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plan to take to monitor and seek to reduce levels of anti-Semitism overseas; and if he will make a statement. **[R]** [303917]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government are committed to tackling anti-Semitism. We condemn all instances of persecution and discrimination against individuals and groups wherever they occur.

All the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas missions have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights in their host countries. We have taken a number of measures to tackle anti-Semitism, many of them in response to the report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into anti-Semitism, commissioned by John Mann MP and published in 2006. These include supporting the International Task Force for Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, to help educate young people around the world about the destructiveness of hate; working through embassies worldwide to support efforts to tackle anti-Semitism; and working through multilateral fora, including the UN, EU, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Council of Europe.

### Australia: Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of incidents of anti-Semitism in Australia; whether he has had recent discussions with the Government of Australia on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [306092]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I am aware of the recent release of a report by Jeremy Jones of the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council at the annual meeting of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry held in Sydney on 29 November 2009 highlighting a reported increase in anti-Semitic incidents. The report also indicated that Australians are fundamentally tolerant and opposed to discrimination, vilification or harassment of Jews and other segments of the population. The Australian Government were also highlighted as making significant developments to address this issue over the last 20 years.

The Government are committed to tackling anti-Semitism. We condemn all instances of persecution and discrimination against individuals and groups wherever they occur. All the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas missions have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights in their host countries.

### Colombia: Trade Unions

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of trade unionists murdered in Colombia in the last 12 months; what steps he is taking to assist the Colombian Government to reduce this figure; and if he will make a statement. [306156]

**Chris Bryant** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]*: We see a variety of reports from different sources on the number of trade unionists murdered in Colombia. The bottom line is that one trade union murder is one too many and the level of violence and human rights abuse in Colombia is unacceptable.

The Government support the work of human rights defenders in Colombia through a range of projects. Projects approved for this financial year and beyond total around £1 million; two of these specifically help tackle impunity and three are aimed at strengthening the position of human rights defenders. We are also working with the UN on a research initiative to help improve the protection of trade union human rights and the development of positive labour relations.

Our embassy staff in Colombia meet with many who have received threats, and we will continue to do so in line with EU guidelines on human rights defenders.

I raised our concerns with President Uribe when I visited Colombia in October 2009, and I made a joint statement with Foreign Minister Bermúdez declaring:

> "the defence of human rights is necessary and legitimate for democracy, and in a country such as Colombia, which takes pride in being completely open and ready to accept international scrutiny in this area.
>
> We welcome these public statements from the highest levels of the Colombian Government."

### Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the findings of the UN report on allegations of illegal funding of the FDLR on an international scale; and whether he plans to raise the matter of such allegations in the UN Security Council. [305069]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]*: The UN Group of Experts' report, which among other things considers external funding of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), makes a valuable contribution to the overall efforts of the international community to help deal with the problems of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The report is frank, independent and fearless, and the Group of Experts have set out their findings and thinking clearly and cogently. We commend them on their work.

The UK has worked closely with the UN Security Council (UNSC) on the DRC sanctions regime. The UNSC agreed unanimously in November to renew and expand the DRC sanctions regime. This is legally binding for all UN member states and represents another step forward in terms of international action to disrupt and deter those who support armed groups and facilitate the continuing conflict in the Great Lakes region.

The UK is committed to the UN sanctions regime. We will not hesitate to support sanctions against any person or company—including those based in the UK—against whom there is sufficient evidence to do so.

### Departmental Legislation

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of his Department's analysis of responses to the public consultation on possible legislation in respect of the overseas operations of private military and security companies. [illegible]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office launched a public consultation on the Government's proposed policy to promote high standards of conduct in the private military and security companies industry internationally on 24 April 2009.

We received detailed responses from over 20 organisations and individuals. Officials have analysed these in detail. We aim to publish the final summary of responses, including a Government response to the contributions received, as soon as possible.

### Departmental Manpower

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of staff of his Department who *(a)* have been employed in the middle east and south Asia in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009 and *(b)* will be employed in that area in each of the next five years. [305474]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** There were 257 diplomatic staff positions (not including UK Trade and Industry staff) in the middle east and south Asia in 2008. This number increased to 289 in 2009.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) prioritises its resources where they are most needed in order to deliver its departmental strategic objectives and we aim to respond quickly to any new priorities by moving existing staff resources to new locations when necessary. As such, it is not possible to estimate the number of staff that will be employed in the middle east and south Asia in each of the next five years.

While we do not envisage the number changing substantially, much will hinge on the FCO's future Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) settlement (covering financial years 2011-12 to 2013-14.

### Departmental Property

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on gilding in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [305505]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has a responsibility to maintain our historic listed buildings in accordance with the requirements of leases and English Heritage. As part of an ongoing programme of redecoration and refurbishment work £5,299 was spent in the last 12 months on gilding in the State Dining Room at Lancaster House in accordance with lease requirements. This room is used throughout the year for hosting official functions for all Government Departments.

### Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303946]

**Chris Bryant:** 2,520 security passes were issued to contractors in the last 12 months. To identify which of these contractors provided consultancy services would incur disproportionate cost.

### Honduras: Politics and Government

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what observations were made by UK representatives of the presidential election in Honduras on 29 November 2009; and what recognition the UK will afford to the Government formed by any of the candidates who participated. [304553]

**Chris Bryant** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]*: No UK representatives travelled to Honduras to observe the presidential elections in Honduras on 29 November 2009, and no official EU election observation mission was deployed. We understand that approximately 300 international observers attended polling stations on election day and two election experts from the European Commission were in-country at the time of the elections.

Prior to the elections we made clear our belief that the democratically elected President, Manuel Zelaya, had to be returned to office. We note that the elections, although carried out under abnormal circumstances, were held in a largely peaceful manner. The UK, and our EU partners, will continue to encourage all parties to work towards full implementation of the San José/Tegucigalpa Accord and restoration of constitutional democratic order in the country.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department provided assistance to international missions to monitor the conduct of the recent presidential election in Honduras. [306685]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office did not send any observers to the presidential elections in Honduras on 29 November 2009, nor did we provide any assistance to other international observation missions deployed there. Two experts from the European Commission were present during the elections, but this did not constitute a formal EU election observation mission. Following the elections, the EU issued a statement on 1 December 2009 which expressed regret that the Tegucigalpa/San José Accord was not fully implemented ahead of the elections, therefore "leading to an electoral process under abnormal circumstances". The UK notes that the elections were held in a largely peaceful manner, but continues to call for the full implementation of the negotiated agreement and the restoration of constitutional, democratic order in the country.

### Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the comments of the Minister for Care Services in Progress magazine on 26 March 2008, how many foreign nationals have been deported because they were in the country illegally in each year since 1997. [301532]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is available on the UK Border Agency website.

The Home Office publishes information on the individuals removed or deported voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

### Members: Correspondence

**John Penrose:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will reply to the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare's letters of 25 August, 1 October and 2 November 2009 on behalf of his constituent Mr. John Dunster. [306344]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I replied to the hon. Member for Weston-super-Mare's letters on 9 December 2009.

### Middle East

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Prime Minister plans to visit *(a)* Gaza and *(b)* Israel, including the Karni crossing. [306800]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has no plans for such a visit.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the discovery by Israel Defence Forces (IDF) of three explosive devices in the West Bank on Thursday 3 December; whether he *(a)* has given and *(b)* plans to give assistance to the IDF to prevent terrorist attacks in Israel; and if he will make a statement. [306098]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have received no such reports and the Israel Defence Forces have not asked for assistance. The UK has long made clear that terrorist violence is unacceptable. We shall continue to call on all armed groups to renounce the use of violence.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the number of rockets held by Hezbollah in Lebanon that are capable of reaching *(a)* Haifa, *(b)* Tel Aviv and *(c)* other locations in Israel; and if he will make a statement. [306109]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** There are no reliable estimates of Hezbollah weaponry and the precise number of rockets with what potential ranges.

The latest report from the UN Secretary General on UN Security Council Resolution 1701 however, highlighted that Hezbollah continues to maintain a substantial military capacity distinct from that of the Lebanese state. This is available on the UN website at

http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/sgrep09.htm

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of Israel on *(a)* the use of sand pits to hold Palestinian detainees and *(b)* the transfer into detention within Israel of Palestinian detainees (i) during and (ii) following Operation Cast Lead. [306676]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We closely monitor Israeli detention operations and the situation of Palestinian prisoners. We will continue to emphasise to the Israeli authorities the importance of ensuring their legal processes are in accordance with international law and democratic norms.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the conclusion of the report of the UN fact finding mission on the Gaza conflict in respect of the blockade of Gaza. [306772]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have stated the Government position on the Goldstone report on a number of occasions. Some aspects of the report were flawed—particularly its failure to acknowledge fully Israel's right to defend herself, and the inadequate attention paid to Hamas' actions. However, the issues raised by the report were very serious, and they should be credibly and independently investigated.

We have also been clear on our position on Israeli restrictions on access through the Gaza crossings. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised this with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on 14 October 2009. EU Foreign Ministers called for an "immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings" in conclusions on 8 December 2009, which are available at:

http://www.se2009.eu/polopoly_fs/1.27026!menu/standard/file/111829.pdf

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the blockade of Gaza by *(a)* HM Ambassador to Israel and *(b)* HM Consul General to the Palestinian Authority; and on what date each most recently visited Gaza. [306773]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We receive regular reports about the current situation in Gaza from both our ambassador to Israel and our consul-general in Jerusalem.

Our consul-general in Jerusalem regularly visits Gaza for meetings at the British Information and Services Office. His most recent visit was on 1 December 2009.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice he has received on whether *(a)* Israel, *(b)* Hamas and *(c)* Egypt are in breach of the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 1860; and if he will make a statement. [306777]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** UN Security Council resolution 1860 is clear in its call for a durable ceasefire; the unimpeded provision and distribution throughout Gaza of humanitarian assistance; and the prevention of illicit arms trafficking throughout Gaza.

Despite this, Hamas rocket attacks continue—they must stop immediately.

Our position on Israeli restrictions on access through the Gaza crossings is well known. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised this with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on 14 October 2009. EU Foreign Ministers called for an "immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings" in conclusions on 8 December 2009, which are available at:

http://www.se2009.eu/polopoly_fs/1.27026!menu/standard/file/111829.pdf

We have made clear our support for Egyptian-sponsored efforts to build a non-partisan, technocratic Palestinian Government, which would be capable of working productively with the international community. These Egyptian efforts continue.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the Gaza blockade on efforts to reach peace in the middle east. [306778]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We regularly press Israel to ease restrictions at the Gaza crossings and permit the legitimate flow of humanitarian and reconstruction materials, trade goods and people into Gaza. We urge Israel to do so immediately, regardless of broader peace negotiations.

The UK continues to vigorously pursue a comprehensive peace based on a two-state solution involving a viable Palestinian state living alongside Israel in peace and security.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to end the blockade of Gaza. [306779]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We will continue to press the Israeli authorities, both at an official and ministerial level, to ease border restrictions into Gaza and allow the passage of essential humanitarian aid and reconstruction material. These concerns were recently highlighted at the EU Foreign Ministers Meeting on 8 December 2009. The EU Foreign Affairs Council conclusions are available at:

http://www.se2009.eu/polopoly_fs/1.27026!menu/standard/file/111829.pdf

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last requested the Israeli government to end the blockade of Gaza. [306780]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have consistently pressed Israel to ease restrictions and allow the flow of essential humanitarian aid and reconstruction material into Gaza. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this issue during his conversation with the Israeli Foreign Minister on 25 November 2009.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* number of rockets or mortars fired from the Gaza strip into Israel and *(b)* injuries resulting from such attacks in each of the last four quarters. [306781]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** According to the Israeli Foreign Ministry there were 762 rocket and mortar attacks during Operation Cast Lead, and 193 attacks between the ceasefire on 18 January and 8 December 2009.

There have been no Israeli fatalities since the ceasefire. We do not have figures concerning causalities.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on *(a)* the number of incidents of (i) Israeli military incursions, (ii) rocket mortar or tank fire from Israel into Gaza, (iii) bombing and (iv) sound bombs in each of the last four quarters and *(b)* fatalities and injuries that have resulted. [306782]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We are unable to establish the total number of incidents in Gaza involving the Israeli Defence Forces in 2009.

However, according to the UN, since the end of Operation Cast Lead, a total of 85 Palestinians have been killed and 134 others injured in the context of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions in 2009 at the Erez crossing *(a)* British and *(b)* EU diplomats were shot at by Israeli or Palestinian forces; and what steps the Government have taken to reduce the risk of such incidents in future. [306787]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** There have been two incidents which have involved Israeli Defence Forces firing warning shots at diplomatic officials. One incident involved an official from the British consulate-general in Jerusalem and the second an official from an EU consulate-general in Jerusalem. We have discussed our concerns with the Israeli authorities.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether HM Ambassador to Israel plans to *(a)* support and *(b)* attend the Gaza freedom march on 31 December 2009. [306789]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Our ambassador to Israel has no plans to attend the Gaza freedom march on 31 December

2009. We advise against all travel to Gaza. Despite the ceasefires continuing to hold, they are fragile and tensions remain extremely high.

We remain gravely concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza and continue to urge the Israeli authorities to ease restrictions at the crossings and implement UN Security Council Resolution 1860 fully.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his representatives have had with the UN Secretary-General on the publication of the UN Secretary-General's report on the cost of damages to UN buildings and equipment in Gaza during Operation Cast Lead; and whether he has asked the UN Secretary-General to (i) publish his report and (ii) seek damages from the parties responsible. [306791]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government were deeply concerned by reports of incidents involving UN property/personnel during the Gaza conflict. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon set up the UN Board of Inquiry to investigate certain incidents involving UN property/personnel during the Gaza conflict. The board reported back on 5 May 2009. The UN Secretariat are taking this forward directly with the Israeli Government.

It is for the UN Secretary-General to decide whether or not to make public anything further on this matter.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions *(a)* he and *(b)* the Prime Minister have raised Gaza access issues with their Israeli counterparts; and on what occasions the Israeli Government has acceded to requests for access in the last 12 months. [306795]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK regularly urges Israel to reduce restrictions at the Gaza crossings and to allow the legitimate flow of humanitarian and reconstruction materials, trade goods, and people.

My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary last raised Gaza access issues with their Israeli counterparts on 14 October 2009 and 25 November 2009 respectively.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on Israeli controls on access to Gaza. [306796]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Middle East issues, including Gaza, were discussed in depth at the EU Foreign Ministers meeting on 8 December 2009. The relevant section of their conclusions reads:

> "Gravely concerned about the situation in Gaza, the Council urges the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1860 and the full respect of international humanitarian law. In this context, the continued policy of closure is unacceptable and politically counterproductive. It has devastated the private sector economy and damaged the natural environment, notably water and other natural resources. The EU again reiterates its calls for an immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza. In this context, the Council calls for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access. While extremists stand to gain from the current situation, the civilian population, half of which are under the age of 18, suffers. Fully recognising Israel's legitimate security needs, the Council continues to call for a complete stop to all violence and arms smuggling into Gaza. The Council calls on those holding the abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit to release him without delay."

## Middle East: Diplomatic Service

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to his statement in *The Sunday Times* of 6 January 2008, when he expects the planned increase in numbers of diplomatic staff in the middle east and south Asia to have been completed. [305571]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The planned increase in numbers of diplomatic staff (not including UK Trade and Industry staff) took place throughout the last financial year (April 2008 to March 2009). This saw an extra 32 front line staff deployed across the middle east and south Asia.

## Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the part the Government are playing in the middle east peace process. [306743]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK continues to pursue vigorously a two-state solution. We support the Palestinian Authority in building the institutions of a future Palestinian state. We speak out to discourage acts which undermine the prospects of peace. And we strongly support the US effort to restart peace negotiations.

There is more consensus in the international community than there has been for many years about the basis for a resolution of the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians. We are continuing to support the efforts of the US Administration who are engaged in a good-faith endeavour to bridge the gap. We will continue to support those efforts, because the alternatives for the people of Israel, Palestine and the rest of the region look so much worse.

## South Caucasus Group

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to visit the South Caucasus group of countries to discuss *(a)* bi-lateral relations and *(b)* broader global issues. [306620]

**Chris Bryant:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no current plans to visit the region. Baroness Kinnock visited Georgia in June 2009 and met with President Aliyev when he came to the UK in July 2009. In recent months Ministers and senior officials have also had a series of meetings in London with counterparts from the South Caucasus, including the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Georgia, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia and Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan. I hope to visit the region soon.

## UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

**John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions the UK delegation to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has included a Minister since 1997. [305720]

**Chris Bryant** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* None. The UK's report on the implementation of the convention, and its optional protocols, was last examined by the Committee in 2008, when a senior official from the Department of Children, Schools and Families led the delegation.

**John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions a Minister has appeared before the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child to discuss the UK's report as a state party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child since 1997. [305727]

**Chris Bryant** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* None. The UK's report on the implementation of the convention, and its optional protocols, was last examined by the Committee in 2008, when a senior official from the Department of Children Schools, and Families led the delegation.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Attendance Allowance

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether all *(a)* existing and *(b)* future claimants of (i) attendance allowance and (ii) disability living allowance over the age of 65 years will have the option of continuing to be able to receive their benefits in cash via a direct payment from a future National Care Service; [307200]

(2) whether *(a)* existing and *(b)* future claimants of (i) attendance allowance and (ii) disability living allowance over the age of 65 years will need to agree care plans in order to access the equivalent level of support. [307201]

**Jonathan Shaw:** If disability benefits for older people are reformed as part of the introduction of the National Care Service, people receiving the affected benefits at the time of reform will continue to receive the same level of cash support. We do not anticipate that these people will need to agree a care plan in order to access this cash support.

As we said in the Green Paper, if we were to draw some disability benefits for older people into the new National Care Service, we would create a new offer for individuals with care needs. This support would be delivered in line with the best principles of benefits: a system that is consistent across the country, providing flexible methods of payment through personal budgets and investment in prevention.

### Christmas Bonus

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* value in current prices and *(b)* cost of the Christmas bonus was in each year since its introduction. [302183]

**Angela Eagle:** The response is in the following table:

| | *Value of Christmas bonus award (£, 2009-10 prices)* | *Total Christmas bonus expenditure (£, cash terms)* | *Total Christmas bonus expenditure (£ million, 2009-10 prices)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1972-73 | 98 | 81 | 773 |
| 1973-74 | 90 | 80 | 714 |
| 1974-75 | 77 | 92 | 688 |
| 1975-76 | | 0 | 1 |
| 1976-77 | | 0 | 0 |
| 1977-78 | 46 | 98 | 453 |
| 1978-79 | 42 | 101 | 420 |
| 1979-80 | 37 | 101 | 360 |
| 1980-81 | 31 | 103 | 310 |
| 1981-82 | 28 | 107 | 294 |
| 1982-83 | 26 | 108 | 277 |
| 1983-84 | 25 | 109 | 267 |
| 1984-85 | 24 | 111 | 258 |
| 1985-86 | 22 | 112 | 247 |
| 1986-87 | 22 | 115 | 246 |
| 1987-88 | 21 | 116 | 234 |
| 1988-89 | 20 | 118 | 222 |
| 1989-90 | 18 | 121 | 213 |
| 1990-91 | 17 | 122 | 199 |
| 1991-92 | 16 | 125 | 193 |
| 1992-93 | 15 | 128 | 192 |
| 1993-94 | 15 | 136 | 198 |
| 1994-95 | 15 | 136 | 195 |
| 1995-96 | 14 | 139 | 194 |
| 1996-97 | 14 | 144 | 194 |
| 1997-98 | 14 | 139 | 182 |
| 1998-99 | 13 | 140 | 180 |
| 1999-2000 | 13 | 134 | 169 |
| 2000-01 | 13 | 135 | 168 |
| 2001-02 | 12 | 136 | 166 |
| 2002-03 | 12 | 137 | 162 |
| 2003-04 | 12 | 141 | 161 |
| 2004-05 | 11 | 142 | 159 |
| 2005-06 | 11 | 143 | 156 |
| 2006-07 | 11 | 145 | 154 |
| 2007-08 | 10 | 147 | 153 |
| 2008-09 | 69 | 1,047 | 1,057 |

*Notes:*

1. Total expenditure figures have been rounded to the nearest million and are given in both cash terms and 2009-10 prices deflated by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflator.
2. The values of the Christmas bonus awards are rounded to the nearest pound and are given in 2009-10 prices deflated by the Retail Prices Index for the 3rd quarter each year.
3. Total expenditure for 2008-09 reflects the latest forecast outturn at the time Budget 2009 was published.
4. The Christmas bonus was first paid in 1972-73.
5. The Christmas bonus was not paid in 1975-76 or 1976-77.
6. Expenditure in 1975-76 relates to small amounts of expenditure due at Christmas 1974.
7. The 2008-09 figures for the Christmas bonus include the normal £10 payment and the pre-Budget report 2008 measure of an additional one-off payment of £60 to all Christmas bonus recipients.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report,* columns 779-80W, on employment and support allowance, how many and what proportion of work capability assessments for claimants of employment and support allowance have been completed *(a)* between three and four, *(b)* between four and five, *(c)* between five and six and *(d)* over six months after the 13-week period from the start of their claim in the latest period for which figures are available. [300659]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer on 23 November 2009]:* My response to your previous question on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 779-80W, explained how 46 per cent. of completed work capability assessments for employment and support allowance claimants were completed within 13 weeks.

The previous reply also stated that the latest reliable cohort of employment and support allowance claims were for claims starting in April 2009. We use this cohort to estimate Atos-advice timings of the assessment process:

There were 8,900 (34 per cent.) completed between three and four months.

An additional 3,800 (15 per cent.) were completed between four and five months.

An additional 1,300 (5 per cent.) were completed between five and six months.

None were completed after six months.

*Note:*

Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Customers are able to backdate their claims to before they first contacted Jobcentre Plus. For incapacity benefit this was for an average of two weeks, and it is expected that this will be the same for employment and support allowance. Therefore, the figures above show the actual time between when the claim was made and the completed work capability assessment taking place, and not the true time that Jobcentre Plus and Atos have to work on cases which may be shorter.

A more accurate reflection of the amount of cases that pass through the process would be determined by taking into account factors, such as, the time taken to return paperwork, whether their condition can be assessed on paper based evidence alone, whether further medical evidence is required or requested and whether a customer actually attends their initial appointment or it has to be re-scheduled. This information is not currently available but we will continue to undertake analysis of performance as the employment and support allowance regime beds in.

### Employment and Support Allowance: Mentally Ill

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of employment support allowance claimants who cite mental health problems as their primary reason for claiming and who have been placed in the work-related activity group, have been referred to specialist mental health providers. [302379]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

### Employment and Support Allowance: Telephone Services

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department has carried out a disability equality impact assessment for the telephone script it uses for employment and support allowance applications. [304150]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The employment and support allowance project was disability equality impact assessed. The claim process for employment and support allowance does not involve using a fully scripted computer system therefore this will not have been impact assessed.

### Employment Services: Autism

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when her Department plans to extend autism awareness training to all disability employment advisers at Jobcentre Plus; [304961]

(2) what training in autism awareness personal advisers at Jobcentre Plus receive. [304962]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what training in autism awareness personal advisers at Jobcentre Plus receive and when her Department plans to extend autism awareness training to all Disability Employment Advisers at Jobcentre Plus. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Personal Advisers at Jobcentre Plus receive training that includes a general awareness of disability and disability issues. Additionally, this provides an understanding of the specialist roles so that staff are aware of the links with Disability Employment Advisers.

Jobcentre Plus policy is to develop its advisers in the skills required to manage a range of customers and to respect their individual needs, covering a variety of health conditions. The learning programme for Jobcentre Plus advisers focuses on raising awareness of customers' personal circumstances and the impact this may have on their ability to move into sustainable employment. Advisers are signposted to guide notes which include background information on a number of conditions, including Autistic Spectrum Condition, the implications for interviews and how to use questioning techniques in order to support customers.

Disability Employment Advisers, who focus on customers needing more extensive support, receive further levels of skills training appropriate to their customers, including skills practice in interviewing customers with Autistic Spectrum Condition. In addition, advisers including Disability Employment Advisers can seek help from their Work Psychologist colleagues to assist them in supporting customers where appropriate. All Jobcentres have access to Disability Employment Adviser services, either by being located within the Jobcentre or for example in more rural areas access to peripatetic Disability Employment Advisers who provide services across a number of locations.

I can advise you that all Disability Employment Advisers currently receive autism awareness as part of the standard training programme that they receive when they take on this role. I can also confirm that autism awareness will continue to be included in training for any future Disability Employment Advisers.

### Housing Benefit

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the cost to landlords of the introduction of direct payment of local housing allowance in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* each of the subsequent five years. [304643]

**Helen Goodman:** The information is not available.

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants in each broad market rental area receive local housing allowance in excess of *(a)* £385 and *(b)* £965 per week. [305850]

**Helen Goodman** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* Local housing allowance information is not available at broad market rental area level.

There are fewer than 100 people getting housing benefit of £1,000 or more under the local housing allowance arrangements—that represents just 0.01 per cent. of the total local housing allowance caseload.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in housing benefit on average to each recipient in each region in each of the last five years. [306519]

**Helen Goodman:** The most recent available information is in the tables.

*Average weekly amount of housing benefit by Government office region: August 2005 to August 2007*

| | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Great Britain | 63.64 | 67.47 | 71.44 |
| North East | 49.98 | 52.40 | 55.76 |
| North West | 55.38 | 57.98 | 61.48 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 50.82 | 53.51 | 56.40 |
| East Midlands | 51.93 | 56.95 | 58.35 |
| West Midlands | 55.84 | 58.85 | 63.12 |
| East | 63.35 | 67.18 | 70.98 |
| London | 97.10 | 103.62 | 109.15 |
| South East | 72.74 | 76.34 | 79.93 |
| South West | 62.18 | 65.51 | 69.30 |
| Wales | 53.53 | 56.15 | 59.90 |
| Scotland | 48.56 | 51.88 | 56.11 |

*Average weekly amount of housing benefit by Government office region: November 2008 to August 2009*

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| | *2008* | *2009* |
| Great Britain | 76.79 | 81.41 |
| North East | 60.82 | 65.21 |
| North West | 66.66 | 70.90 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 61.11 | 64.75 |
| East Midlands | 63.52 | 67.34 |
| West Midlands | 68.40 | 71.87 |
| East | 76.28 | 81.17 |
| London | 116.59 | 123.68 |
| South East | 85.49 | 90.72 |
| South West | 74.34 | 78.73 |
| Wales | 64.37 | 68.50 |
| Scotland | 59.70 | 62.69 |

*Notes:*

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest penny.

*Source:*

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. taken in August 2005, August 2006, August 2007. Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) taken in November 2008 and August 2009.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discretion local authorities have to make direct payments to landlords through housing-related benefits. [304229]

**Helen Goodman:** Under the local housing allowance rules for calculating housing benefit, local authorities may pay housing benefit directly to landlords in the following circumstances:

when they consider that the tenant is unlikely to pay their rent; or

when they consider that the tenant is likely to have difficulty in managing their financial affairs; or

when payments have previously been made in the same award directly to the landlord because the tenant was in 8 or more weeks of arrears of rent; or

as a one-off payment where the tenant has moved leaving arrears of rent.

For housing benefit claims that are not assessed and paid under the local housing allowance rules, there are circumstances when the local authority may consider paying landlords directly:

as a one-off payment of arrears when a customer has left an address leaving arrears of rent;

at the customer's request or with his consent; or

without the customer's consent, if it is in the interest of the customer and their family.

Where a customer has accrued rent arrears of eight weeks or more payment of housing benefit must be paid direct to the landlord.

## In Work Credit

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of eligible lone parents have received the in-work credit since it was introduced. [304382]

**Helen Goodman:** Since the introduction of in-work credit in April 2004 to March 2009, 134,000 lone parents have taken up this form of support.

We cannot estimate the take up rate as a proportion of all eligible lone parents because to qualify for in-work credit the lone parent must work at least 16 hours per week, and we do not hold data on the number of hours lone parents work when they leave benefit.

## Mortgages: Preseli

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have received assistance through the Support for Mortgage Interest scheme in Preseli Pembrokeshire constituency since the scheme was launched. [306654]

**Helen Goodman:** Information on mortgage interest repayments is not available at constituency level.

## Pension Credit

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department has taken to publicise the rise in the savings disregard for pension credit to £10,000. [304260]

**Angela Eagle:** We have taken forward a number of measures to ensure people are aware of this change. In early November when the change took place we issued a press notice and contacted national, regional, online and specialist media to increase awareness. Coverage was achieved in a range of media including the *Daily Mirror, The Guardian, The Sunday Times* and the moneysavingexpert.com website which has a monthly audience of 8.1 million.

Guidance was issued to staff to inform pension credit applicants who were unsuccessful on capital grounds in advance of the rule change in November; we have also worked with key stakeholders so that they understand the changes.

Those already receiving pension credit and who benefited from the change were also notified of the change and its impact on their award.

In addition information has been incorporated in relevant pension credit leaflets and the online tool, 'The Pension Credit calculator'.

## Pension Credit/Winter Fuel Payments

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners were in a household in receipt of *(a)* pension credit and *(b)* winter fuel allowance in each London local authority area in 2008-09. [304514]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is in the following tables:

*Number of pension credit beneficiaries in London Government region*

| *Local authority* | *May 2008* | *May 2009* |
|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 10,220 | 10,190 |
| Barnet | 13,700 | 13,780 |
| Bexley | 8,730 | 8,820 |
| Brent | 14,950 | 15,190 |
| Bromley | 10,620 | 10,770 |
| Camden | 10,180 | 10,280 |
| City of London | 190 | 200 |
| Croydon | 13,450 | 13,580 |
| Ealing | 14,760 | 14,880 |
| Enfield | 14,590 | 14,640 |
| Greenwich | 10,970 | 11,060 |
| Hackney | 12,490 | 12,580 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 7,490 | 7,610 |
| Haringey | 12,180 | 12,340 |
| Harrow | 10,190 | 10,350 |
| Havering | 11,460 | 11,380 |
| Hillingdon | 9,740 | 9,860 |
| Hounslow | 9,960 | 10,090 |
| Islington | 11,040 | 11,160 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 6,720 | 6,830 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 4,670 | 4,760 |
| Lambeth | 12,830 | 12,930 |
| Lewisham | 11,910 | 11,900 |
| Merton | 6,920 | 6,930 |
| Newham | 15,030 | 15,160 |
| Redbridge | 12,070 | 12,140 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 5,080 | 5,070 |
| Southwark | 13,090 | 13,130 |
| Sutton | 6,720 | 6,760 |
| Tower Hamlets | 13,620 | 13,520 |
| Waltham Forest | 11,860 | 11,820 |
| Wandsworth | 11,300 | 11,300 |
| Westminster | 9,460 | 9,600 |
| Total | 348,190 | 350,610 |

*Notes:*

1. The number of beneficiaries in receipt is rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Beneficiaries — pension credit is claimed on a household basis and therefore the number of people that pension credit helps (the beneficiaries) is the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are also claiming.
3. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

*Number of individuals who received a winter fuel payment in London Government region for winter 2008-09*

| *Local authority* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 24,160 |
| Barnet | 56,850 |
| Bexley | 46,720 |
| Brent | 38,820 |
| Bromley | 66,130 |
| Camden | 26,950 |
| City of London | 1,240 |
| Croydon | 56,680 |
| Ealing | 44,610 |
| Enfield | 47,590 |
| Greenwich | 32,810 |
| Harrow | 40,020 |
| Hackney | 21,720 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 20,480 |
| Haringey | 28,350 |
| Havering | 52,030 |
| Hillingdon | 43,860 |
| Hounslow | 33,200 |
| Islington | 22,640 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 20,580 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 25,430 |
| Lambeth | 29,970 |
| Lewisham | 33,250 |
| Merton | 29,000 |
| Newham | 25,630 |
| Redbridge | 41,080 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 31,810 |
| Southwark | 28,460 |
| Sutton | 34,490 |
| Tower Hamlets | 20,220 |
| Wandsworth | 33,860 |
| Waltham Forest | 31,810 |
| Westminster | 27,180 |
| Total | 1,117,620 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. data.

## Sickness Benefits

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will place in the Library before the Christmas Adjournment a copy of the Government's response to the European Commission on EU infringement proceedings in respect of the non-payment of exportable disability living allowances and other exportable sickness benefits. [306273]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to my written answer given on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 249W.

## Social Security Benefits

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate she has made of the number of households in England in which each member is in receipt of at least one of income support, council tax benefit, housing benefit, jobseeker's allowance, pension credit or income-related employment and support allowance. [305786]

**Helen Goodman:** Information on the receipt of income support, council tax benefit, housing benefit, jobseeker's allowance, and pension credit is not available on a person level basis because these are paid on a benefit unit basis.

The most recent estimate available is that there were 4,000,000 households in England where all of the benefit units were in receipt of at least one of income support, council tax benefit, housing benefit, jobseeker's allowance, or pension credit.

*Source*:

The Family Resources Survey 2007-08. This survey is known to under-record benefit receipt so the estimate presented here should be treated with caution.

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of households in England in which all members are in receipt of at least one of working tax credit for those on incomes of less that £15,460 per annum including a disability element, disability living allowance, child tax credit for those with an income of less than £15,460 per annum, housing benefit including a disability premium, income support including a disability premium, council tax benefit including a disability premium, war disablement pension including a mobility supplement or constant attendance allowance or attendance allowance. [305788]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]*: The information is not available.

### Social Security Benefits: Elderly

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on disability premiums for *(a)* pension credit and *(b)* housing benefit for people over 65 in England in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [300397]

**Angela Eagle:** The disability premium applies only to working age benefits, but disabled pensioners can have an additional amount for severe disability taken into account in their claim for pension credit or housing benefit.

Premiums are additional amounts which are taken into account in the means test for pension credit and housing benefit, but are not paid directly as a discrete amount. They do not necessarily increase benefit entitlement by the full value of the premium, and the impact will depend on the pensioner's income and other circumstances.

However, it is possible to estimate how much pension credit expenditure is due to the severe disability premium by looking at how much less would be spent if the premium was removed, all other things being equal, and these estimates are provided in the following table.

Housing benefit is more complex, as entitlement is usually dependent on the amount and type of pension credit that is in payment. In particular, the use of the premium in a pension credit award can lead to a larger housing benefit entitlement, without the premium being used in the housing benefit assessment. National Statistics on housing benefit do not currently provide the necessary information needed in order to produce an estimate of the expenditure involved.

*Estimated additional expenditure on pension credit due to the severe disability premium, for claimants aged 65 and over and living in England*

| | *Total expenditure (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 1,160 |
| 2008-09 | 1,220 |

*Notes*:

1. Expenditure estimates are consistent with expenditure information published on the internet at http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp
2. The proportion of total pension credit expenditure relating to this group has been estimated using a 5 per cent. sample snapshot of cases in August of each year.
3. For couples, age is defined as the age of the claimant.
4. Additional expenditure on pension credit due to the severe disability premium is defined as the lower of the value of the premium(s) used in the pension credit assessment and the weekly pension credit award.
5. Estimates have been rounded to the nearest £10 million.

*Source*:

DWP Statistical and Accounting Data

### Social Security Benefits: Mortgages

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the effects of the time taken to make support for mortgage interest payments on people in receipt of *(a)* income support, *(b)* income-based jobseeker's allowance, *(c)* income-related employment and support allowance and *(d)* pension credit; what the reasons are for the time taken to make such payments; how many people she estimates will be affected by the time taken; what estimate she has made of the monetary value of such outstanding payments; when she expects payments to be made in accordance with target times; and if she will make a statement. [304879]

**Helen Goodman** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]*: The information is not available in the format requested.

Neither Jobcentre Plus nor the Pension Disability and Carers Service has separate specific targets for processing support for mortgage interest (SMI) payments. Clearance times for SMI payments are measured along with all other claims or changes of circumstances affecting benefits.

Jobcentre Plus is meeting the actual average clearance targets for changes for all primary benefits; the Pension Disability and Carers Service is meeting its targets for clearing pension credit claims.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons question *(a)* 300399 on definition of disability and *(b)* 300517 on expenditure on disability benefits, was not answered before 9 December 2009. [307203]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Answers to questions 300399 and 300517 were not given to the hon. Member on the due dates as a result of administrative delays, for which I sincerely apologise.

## JUSTICE

### Correctional Services Accreditation Panel

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much remuneration the chair of the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel receives. [304317]

**Mr. Straw:** The chair of the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel is the Head of Performance and Regulation, Criminal Justice Group, Ministry of Justice. He is a senior civil servant who performs this role as part of his normal duties and receives no additional payment in relation to the chairmanship of CSAP.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people worked for the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel in each of the last three years. [304318]

**Mr. Straw:** In addition to the chair, the panel consists of appointed members, who are independent experts in offending behaviour programmes, the principles of effective practice and/or accreditation. 12 members were appointed in 2003 for a period of three years. These appointments and the appointment of the acting chair were extended until 31 April 2008.

Following an open competition in January 2008, 15 independent experts were appointed. Members are appointed to carry out work when required and remuneration is dependent on that work and attending the panel which convenes on an ad hoc basis. The panel is supported by one full-time civil servant who manages the programme of work.

### Bill of Rights

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether invited members of the public were remunerated for attendance at his Department's deliberative events on British values. [306703]

**Mr. Wills:** At the regional events which took place on Saturdays throughout October in London, Cardiff, Sheffield, Gateshead and Edinburgh invited members of the public received an incentive payment of £75 per person. A total of 457 people attended the regional events. At the reconvened events in November in Gateshead and Birmingham (for which more travelling time was required for most delegates) invited members of the public received an incentive payment of £85 per person. A total of 225 people attended the reconvened events. When carrying out general population research it is usual for research companies to make incentive payments as a means to ensure that the research not only includes active individuals who like to engage in these discussions but also encourages less engaged individuals to take part. Incentive payments are especially important in the case of events of this nature, as participants will often be expected to travel long distances to attend and will also be expected to reconvene as part of the next stages in the deliberative events process.

### Convictions

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average age was of people convicted of *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robbery, *(d)* burglary and *(e)* drug offences in each year since 1997. [306376]

**Maria Eagle:** The average age of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales, by selected offence type, from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is given in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

*The average age of persons convicted at all courts for selected types of offence, England and Wales 1997 to 2007*[1, 2]

| *Offence type* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 26 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 |
| Sexual offences | 37 | 38 | 38 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 36 | 37 | 36 | 37 |
| Burglary | 22 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Robbery | 21 | 21 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 20 |
| Drug offences | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 |

[1] The statistics relate to the average age of persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

### Crimes of Violence

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many threats made by prisoners to prison officers were reported in the latest period for which figures are available; and what his Department's policy is on action to be taken in response to such reports. [305124]

**Maria Eagle:** A prisoner who makes threats to anyone may be charged under the prison or young offender institution rules with using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour. The charge will be dealt with at an adjudication hearing by a prison governor, or in more serious cases by an independent adjudicator (district judge). If the charge is proved the governor may impose any of the punishments set out in the rules, ranging from a caution, forfeiture of privileges, stoppage of earning, or cellular confinement. An independent adjudicator may impose any of these punishments, plus up to 42 additional days in custody.

The Offender Management Caseload Statistics (OMCS), available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/offender-management-caseload-statistics-2008-2.pdf

show that in 2008, 16,048 offences of threatening, abusive, or insulting words or behaviour were punished following guilty findings at adjudications. The OMCS do not show the number of these offences that were directed at prison officers (as opposed to other members of staff, other prisoners, or visitors), or how many charges were not proven or not proceeded with.

Any threats by prisoners towards prison staff should be recorded on a Security Information Report (SIR). In the period January to August 2009, 15,232 SIRs were submitted in connection with threats to staff and others, but these records do not show how many of these incidents related to threats to prison officers, other staff, or visitors.

Alternatively to, or in addition to, the prison disciplinary system, prisoners' behaviour is taken into account when their privilege level under the Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) scheme is reviewed. A pattern of bad behaviour, such as making threats, or a particularly serious single incident, is likely to lead to a loss of privileges under the scheme. No figures are available on the number of prisoners whose privilege level has been reduced as a consequence of making threats.

### Crown Courts

**Sir Stuart Bell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent assessment he has made of the level of competition for contracts for the provision of advocacy services in the Crown Court Criminal Defence Service; [306377]

(2) what his policy is on the provision of criminal litigation support and advocacy services in respect of a case in the Crown Court by the same firm of solicitors; and what value for money assessment has been made of that practice; [306378]

(3) if he will make an assessment of the potential effects on standards of representation in the Crown Court provided by the Criminal Defence Service of the appointment by the solicitors' firms providing criminal litigation support of advocates from those firms; [306379]

(4) if he will make an assessment of the potential effects on standards of advice given to a client of the Criminal Defence Service of the appointment to the client's case of a solicitor and an advocate from the same firm, with particular reference to *(a)* advice on the right to silence during an investigation and *(b)* the avoidance of adverse references at trial. [306380]

**Bridget Prentice:** With the exception of some advocates on very high cost (crime) cases, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not directly contract with advocates for the provision of advocacy services in the Crown court. The LSC is currently consulting on changes to the way that it procures advocacy services for high cost criminal cases. Currently there are sufficient advocates of appropriate quality to meet the needs of the Criminal Defence Service.

Solicitor advocates must pass through an appropriate accreditation scheme before they are able to appear in the Crown court. The aim of this is to ensure that they achieve an equivalent level of skills to barristers. It is also the case that solicitor advocates and barristers—whether employed or self-employed—are under a professional obligation only to take on cases for which they are suitably experienced and qualified.

In commissioning defence and other services, the LSC needs to be able to rely on suitable standards and accreditation to provide assurance as to the quality and value for money of the services it is buying. MOJ and the LSC have spent three years working with the professional bodies, the senior judiciary and the Crown Prosecution Service to develop a quality assurance scheme for all advocates as recognition of the significant change in those now permitted to partake in advocacy. In the longer term, the Quality Assurance of Advocates scheme (QAA) which is currently being developed may become a contractual requirement for all advocates wishing to undertake publicly funded advocacy.

Advocates, whether solicitor advocates or barristers, are not involved in advising clients during investigations prior to charge. If a litigator advises his client to remain silent during interview, then that is a matter of professional judgment at that time with no bearing on any decision to instruct an in-house advocate or independent counsel if the client is subsequently charged.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials in his Department's Information Directorate were seconded to the Information Commissioner's Office in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [306648]

**Mr. Wills:** The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the independent authority responsible for enforcing the Freedom of Information Act.

The ICO is supported by one secondee from the Information Directorate in the Ministry of Justice, who joined the Office in April 2009. There have been no previous secondees from the Information Directorate.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received by his Department in 2008 received a substantive response within 20 days. [305570]

**Mr. Wills:** Statistics published by the Ministry of Justice on Freedom of Information in central Government for 2008 show that of a total of 2,492 non-routine requests received by the Department, 56 per cent. (1,393) received a substantive response within 20 days. 62 per cent. (1,537) of requests were dealt with 'in time', that is, within 20 days or by meeting a permitted extension deadline.

To improve its performance, the Department brought the management of all of its freedom of information requests within the remit of a new data access and compliance unit, in late 2008.

Since 2008, the timeliness with which it deals with requests has risen substantially—from 51 per cent. at the end of 2008 to 71 per cent. in the second quarter of 2009. It expects to see further improvements in timeliness during 2009.

The statistics can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

and copies are available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [303603]

**Mr. Wills:** As of November 2009, there were 33 press officers employed by the Ministry of Justice. In addition, there were five other staff working in the office as press office contractors.

The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007. Staffing levels in the Ministry's Communications Directorate now more adequately reflect the high level of media interest in the work of the Department, and the need to meet the high demands of a 24/7 media. It is right that the public know and understand the work of the MOJ and its agencies and how taxpayers' money is being spent. Communications, including the work of the press office, is an important element of this.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) alcohol and (ii) entertainment in the last 12 months. [305534]

**Mr. Wills:** All expenditure on food, drink and entertainment is in line with the Ministry's internal finance policy manual and gifts and hospitality policy, which set out mandatory guidance for all staff regarding the use of public funds. Both are consistent with the Treasury guidance on "Managing Public Money", at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_mpm_index.htm

and the Treasury handbook on "Propriety and Regularity" at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr governance_valueformoney.htm

The Ministry's policy on in-house hospitality prohibits the supply of any alcohol to Ministry of Justice personnel who are paid from departmental funds. When providing hospitality to external parties, then discretion can be exercised, e.g. a modest amount of wine with a meal, but expenditure should be modest and appropriate to the circumstances.

Expenditure on alcohol and entertainment are not specifically identified within the Ministry's accounting systems as they form part of a wider "entertainment and hospitality" classification. To identify specific amounts relating to alcohol and entertainment would involve examining every individual transaction within this wider category, which would incur disproportionate costs. Expenditure in 2008-09 on this wider category of expenditure was £315,000 for the Ministry and its Executive agencies, excluding the 42 local probation boards and trusts.

### Departmental Telephone Lines

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305210]

**Mr. Wills:** The Department's telecoms services are provided through contracts with external service providers. The majority of these services are managed within individual business areas and detailed management information is not collated centrally.

Following de-regulation of the telecoms industry, many telecommunications companies offer call packages which have inclusive calls, though in most cases 0800/0845 number are not covered. This means that charges paid by the caller to prefix 08 numbers are set by each phone company individually, with charges varying accordingly, especially when the call originates from a UK mobile or non-UK number.

From the records held centrally, the Department operates 52 0845 numbers and 25 0800 telephone numbers to provide a range of services. There is no record of any 0870 numbers being used for public access to services.

Some prefix 08 numbers could also be considered to be sponsored by the Department, as it pays for some of the cost to the caller. However, the amount would differ depending on the relevant tariffs in a caller's specific call plan.

In 2008-09, call volumes to 18 0845 numbers used by Her Majesty's Courts Service Bulk Payment Centre totalled 789,000.

Details of call volumes to other individual numbers, and any additional alternative exchange numbers that may be in use, are not collated centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As part of providing a cost-effective service to its users, the Department considers ways to make service users aware of the possibility that cheaper call options could be available. For instance, Her Majesty's Courts Service Bulk Payment Centre publish alternative exchange numbers for 18 0845 numbers on their web pages. This allows customers to choose which number to call, depending on their call plan. Charges vary, especially when the call originates from a UK mobile or non-UK number.

### Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305373]

**Mr. Wills:** The information requested is shown in the table and covers the Session from 3 December 2008 to 12 November 2009.

| | Number of named day questions for answer | Number of questions answered substantively on the named day |
|---|---|---|
| December 2008 | 49 | 40 |
| January 2009 | 75 | 54 |
| February 2009 | 74 | 63 |
| March 2009 | 92 | 56 |
| April 2009 | 33 | 22 |
| May 2009 | 70 | 49 |
| June 2009 | 68 | 36 |
| July 2009 | 100 | 62 |
| August 2009 | 0 | 0 |
| September 2009 | 59 | 31 |

| | Number of named day questions for answer | Number of questions answered substantively on the named day |
|---|---|---|
| October 2009 | 81 | 47 |
| November 2009 | 45 | 31 |
| Total | 750 | 482 |

Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the "Guide to Parliamentary Work", at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

### Foster Care: Finance

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the cost of an intensive fostering placement. [305320]

**Maria Eagle:** The estimated cost for intensive fostering for the financial year 2009-10 will vary with the geographical area in which the provider is located, with some areas having larger overheads, including foster carer payments, transport, salaries and premise costs than another area. The costs currently range between £2,220 to £2,385 per week per placement.

### Fuel Poverty

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 295-96W, on fuel poverty, when he expects figures on fuel poverty in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* England to be available for (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [305197]

**Mr. Kidney:** I have been asked to reply.

Figures on fuel poverty in Yorkshire and the Humber, and for all Government office regions within England, are published at the same time as headline levels for England. 2008 data will be published during 2010, and figures for 2009 will be available a year later. We will be announcing publication dates of the 2008 and 2009 figures early in the new year (2010) at the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/publications.aspx

### Health Services: Channel Islands

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consultation his Department conducted with *(a)* British Chambers of Commerce, *(b)* trade unions, *(c)* the Federation of Small Businesses, *(d)* the Confederation of British Industry and *(e)* other organisations with interests in industry, trade, or commerce prior to the decision to cancel the reciprocal agreement between the National Health Service and the Isle of Man with effect from 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [306506]

**Mr. Wills:** No such discussions took place. The Department of Health ended the bilateral agreement with the Channel Islands (including Jersey and Guernsey) and gave notice on the agreement with the Isle of Man, as it considers that they are out of place considering the wide availability of travel insurance, and there is little robust data to justify the business case and value for money for the national health service.

### Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the latest estimate is of the annual cost of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. [302616]

**Mr. Straw:** I refer my hon. Friend to my reply to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Davies) on 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 622W.

### Legal Aid: Hazel Grove

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid were *(a)* received from and *(b)* granted to residents of (i) Hazel Grove constituency and (ii) each local authority in the north-west in each of the last five years. [304691]

**Bridget Prentice:** Applications for civil legal aid help and advice are made to individual providers. Existing data collection arrangements record the number of instances of advice provided, rather than the number of applications made.

Applications for civil legal aid representation are submitted to the Legal Services Commission (LSC). The LSC collects data on the number of civil legal aid representation applications submitted to providers located within (i) Hazel Grove constituency and (ii) each local authority in the north-west and this is broken down for each of the past five financial years (see Table 1). A proportion of these applications will come from individuals resident outside (i) Hazel Grove constituency and (ii) local authority areas in the north-west.

Data on applications for criminal legal aid are not recorded in the same way as applications for civil legal aid representation. Instead, they rely on a separate 'online' application process. This does not allow applications for criminal legal aid to be identified on the basis of postcode information. Therefore, it is not possible to provide details of criminal legal aid applications submitted from residents in the Hazel Grove constituency area, nor from those residents in each local authority area in the north-west.

However, following the introduction of means testing in October 2006, the Legal Services Commission can identify the number of criminal legal aid applications submitted to the neighbouring Stockport magistrates court (see Table 2). These applications will include those submitted from defendants charged with an indictable only offence and facing trial before Manchester Minshull street Crown court. A proportion of these applications will have come from individuals resident in the Hazel Grove constituency area.

Table 2 also provides the total number of applications submitted to all 42 magistrates courts covered by the north-west region of Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS). An analysis of these data by individual court could be provided only at disproportionate cost. As with the data for Stockport magistrates court, the applications will include a proportion from individuals who are resident outside the north-west region.

*Table 1: Civil legal aid applications for representation, and legal aid certificates granted—Hazel Grove and north-west local authority areas—last five financial years*

| | Applications | | | | | Certificates | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| Hazel Grove constituency | 84 | 84 | 108 | 113 | 118 | 64 | 60 | 70 | 78 | 85 |
| *North-west local authority areas* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allerdale | 215 | 185 | 196 | 216 | 153 | 160 | 137 | 149 | 154 | 109 |
| Barrow-in-Furness | 353 | 348 | 354 | 282 | 221 | 207 | 205 | 279 | 225 | 157 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 1,100 | 1,090 | 1,105 | 1,034 | 1,131 | 891 | 915 | 928 | 829 | 935 |
| Blackpool | 1,099 | 1,237 | 1,178 | 1,049 | 1,102 | 867 | 986 | 949 | 825 | 980 |
| Bolton | 1,295 | 1,171 | 1,194 | 1,191 | 1,163 | 1,008 | 926 | 978 | 979 | 988 |
| Burnley | 619 | 665 | 725 | 637 | 568 | 458 | 507 | 566 | 506 | 455 |
| Bury | 514 | 528 | 526 | 499 | 551 | 379 | 412 | 401 | 380 | 421 |
| Carlisle | 530 | 534 | 465 | 428 | 397 | 419 | 418 | 380 | 367 | 315 |
| Chester | 512 | 404 | 409 | 380 | 400 | 364 | 327 | 305 | 296 | 367 |
| Chorley | 308 | 321 | 268 | 227 | 306 | 225 | 263 | 209 | 174 | 239 |
| Congleton | 114 | 160 | 170 | 142 | 129 | 81 | 120 | 128 | 115 | 106 |
| Copeland | 196 | 241 | 237 | 231 | 195 | 161 | 184 | 190 | 186 | 142 |
| Crewe and Nantwich | 304 | 334 | 293 | 267 | 264 | 240 | 263 | 244 | 227 | 228 |
| Eden | 91 | 78 | 95 | 84 | 72 | 73 | 56 | 70 | 71 | 48 |
| Ellesmere Port and Neston | 150 | 167 | 189 | 156 | 182 | 118 | 132 | 146 | 131 | 136 |
| Fylde | 189 | 198 | 170 | 137 | 118 | 136 | 150 | 132 | 99 | 93 |
| Halton | 505 | 476 | 460 | 447 | 539 | 306 | 371 | 367 | 368 | 441 |
| Hyndburn | 559 | 575 | 470 | 380 | 360 | 457 | 440 | 358 | 276 | 292 |
| Knowsley | 360 | 365 | 366 | 353 | 380 | 247 | 302 | 281 | 276 | 244 |
| Lancaster | 570 | 578 | 557 | 506 | 447 | 437 | 471 | 436 | 407 | 337 |
| Liverpool | 2,368 | 2,366 | 2,576 | 2,279 | 2,538 | 1,869 | 1,852 | 2,053 | 1,921 | 2,086 |
| Macclesfield | 219 | 187 | 213 | 175 | 225 | 164 | 155 | 179 | 141 | 199 |
| Manchester | 3,057 | 2,677 | 2,591 | 2,361 | 2,454 | 2,470 | 2,178 | 2,102 | 1,913 | 1,977 |
| Oldham | 937 | 862 | 967 | 874 | 910 | 731 | 714 | 804 | 720 | 755 |
| Pendle | 318 | 228 | 243 | 192 | 221 | 220 | 172 | 175 | 145 | 165 |
| Preston | 1,062 | 1,039 | 865 | 809 | 859 | 899 | 856 | 735 | 657 | 681 |
| Ribble Valley | 26 | 30 | 18 | 19 | 29 | 18 | 28 | 16 | 14 | 17 |
| Rochdale | 718 | 785 | 822 | 763 | 812 | 567 | 672 | 692 | 624 | 667 |
| Rossendale | 158 | 134 | 143 | 104 | 128 | 122 | 112 | 107 | 70 | 99 |
| Salford | 1,403 | 1,348 | 1,301 | 1,054 | 1,015 | 1,188 | 1,151 | 1,134 | 980 | 848 |
| Sefton | 1,203 | 1,129 | 1,083 | 997 | 1,002 | 931 | 856 | 818 | 783 | 803 |
| South Lakeland | 189 | 215 | 224 | 234 | 247 | 150 | 174 | 181 | 177 | 200 |
| South Ribble | 68 | 58 | 51 | 31 | 52 | 55 | 40 | 34 | 28 | 34 |
| St. Helens | 929 | 938 | 891 | 920 | 1,118 | 759 | 760 | 738 | 752 | 926 |
| Stockport | 1,123 | 1,153 | 1,270 | 1,164 | 1,179 | 866 | 912 | 904 | 871 | 896 |
| Tameside | 930 | 850 | 904 | 731 | 734 | 745 | 722 | 700 | 602 | 575 |
| Trafford | 577 | 534 | 462 | 531 | 729 | 406 | 430 | 302 | 401 | 561 |
| Vale Royal | 328 | 303 | 308 | 367 | 504 | 234 | 282 | 288 | 278 | 400 |
| Warrington | 527 | 511 | 465 | 404 | 450 | 400 | 308 | 330 | 320 | 337 |
| West Lancashire | 262 | 244 | 243 | 212 | 237 | 215 | 205 | 205 | 176 | 204 |
| Wigan | 1,012 | 1,145 | 1,320 | 1,343 | 1,371 | 767 | 836 | 937 | 986 | 958 |
| Wirral | 1,649 | 1,822 | 1,831 | 1,662 | 1,885 | 1,354 | 1,531 | 1,493 | 1,445 | 1,625 |
| Wyre | 306 | 321 | 314 | 281 | 264 | 216 | 239 | 244 | 209 | 192 |

*Table 2: Legal aid applications submitted and granted by (a) Stockport magistrates court and (b) all magistrates courts in the HMCS north-west region*

| | *October 2006 to March 2007* | *April 2007 to March 2008* | *April 2008 to March 2009* | *April 2009 to October 2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Stockport MC* | | | | |
| Applications submitted | 1,421 | 2,744 | 2,969 | 1,594 |
| Applications granted | 1,241 | 2,509 | 2,832 | 1,510 |
| *All north-west MCs* | | | | |
| Applications submitted | 48,196 | 98,791 | 101,996 | 58,311 |
| Applications granted | 42,833 | 92,094 | 96,406 | 55,129 |

## Police: Databases

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which penalty notices for disorder will be recorded on the PentiP computer system. [305220]

**Mr. Hanson:** I have been asked to reply.

All penalty notices for disorder issued by police forces in England and Wales will be recorded on the PentiP computer system.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which penalty notices for disorder are recorded on the Police National Computer. [305221]

**Mr. Hanson:** I have been asked to reply.

All penalty notices for disorder issued for 'recordable offences' are recorded on the Police National Computer. The list of 'recordable offences' is defined by the National Police Records (Recordable Offences) Regulations.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the annual running costs of the new PentiP computer system in each of the next three years. [305222]

**Mr. Hanson:** I have been asked to reply.

The National Policing Improvement Agency has contracted Northgate Public Services to run PentiP as a managed service for an initial period of seven years. The annual charge for providing the managed service to 44 police forces and their associated courts in England and Wales (including British Transport Police) is as follows:

| *Service management year* | *Annual charge (£)* |
|---|---|
| Year 1 | 1,919,643 |
| Year 2 | 1,454,262 |
| Year 3 | 1,362,306 |
| Year 4 | 1,300,510 |
| Year 5 | 1,300,510 |
| Year 6 | 1,300,510 |
| Year 7 | 1,300,510 |
| Total over seven years | 9,897,331 |

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* developing and *(b)* implementing the new PentiP computer system. [305223]

**Mr. Hanson:** I have been asked to reply.

The PentiP computer system is being delivered by the National Policing Improvement Agency as part of a business continuity project. The full project costs of developing and implementing the PentiP computer system and related business processes across 44 police forces and their associated courts in England and Wales (including British Transport Police) is £17.3 million, which is lower than the £19.3 million original cost estimate. As the development and implementation activities are so interlinked, it is not possible to separate the costs into *(a)* development and *(b)* implementation.

## Prisoners

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether prisoners allowed out of prison on resettlement overnight release licences are included in his Department's prison population figures. [305784]

**Maria Eagle:** Prisoners who have been released on an overnight temporary release licence are included in prison population figures.

These prisoners are required to return to prison after their temporary release has concluded and therefore continue to form part of the overall population for which a prison place is required.

## Prisoners Release

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many convicted foreign national prisoners were released from prison in England and Wales in each of the last five years; [306682]

(2) how many foreign national prisoners convicted of each offence have been released from prison since 1 January 2009. [306683]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of foreign national prisoners (FNPs) discharged from prisons in England and Wales in the last five years following the completion of a determinate sentence is shown in the table.

| | *Number of discharges* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 7,100 |
| 2005 | 7,400 |
| 2006 | 7,700 |
| 2007 | 8,100 |
| 2008 | 9,500 |

Note:
These figures have been rounded to nearest 100.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Data for 2009 are not yet available.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners were discharged from a sentence of imprisonment in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* each month in 2009 for which figures are available. [303833]

**Mr. Straw:** The number of discharges of foreign national prisoners from completed determinate sentences in 2008 was 9,500. This figure has been rounded to the nearest 100.

Data for 2009 are not yet available.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Prisoners: Children in Care

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of people serving custodial sentences who were formerly children in care. [305621]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on the number of prisoners serving custodial sentences in England and Wales who were formerly in care is not held centrally.

However, a Social Exclusion Unit report 'Reducing re-offending by ex-Prisoners' published in 2002 reported that 27 per cent. of the prison population had been taken into care as a child against an average across the general population of 2 per cent.

### Prisoners: Collective Worship

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many prisons all *(a)* Anglican, *(b)* Roman Catholic and *(c)* Free Church or Methodist prisoners were able to attend weekly worship in the last quarter for which figures are available; and in which prisons prisoners of each affiliation were not all able to attend weekly worship in that period. [306363]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on this is not collected or collated by prisons. The information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as it would need to be collated from 135 prisons. All prisons provide appropriate acts of worship for prisoners from the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Church/Methodist traditions each week, other than in exceptional circumstances. On the authority of the governor, prisoners may be excluded from attending worship on an individual basis for a period not exceeding one month, and renewable thereafter, on certain specified grounds relating to security, good order and control.

### Probation

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the level of underspend by probation areas in Wales in 2009-10. [306503]

**Maria Eagle:** Probation trusts and areas in Wales are forecast to be on-budget for 2009-10.

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanism exists for probation trusts and probation areas in Wales to be reimbursed for the cost to them of *(a)* changes in the number of staff they employ and *(b)* redundancy payments in the period to April 2010. [306504]

**Maria Eagle:** All probation areas/trusts in Wales have identified efficiency savings in their budgets. It is anticipated that any staff reorganisation or redundancies that may arise before April 2010 will be met from this money.

### Probation Officers

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the harmonisation of the conditions of service of probation service staff in the event of the establishment of an all-Wales probation trust. [306475]

**Maria Eagle:** Job evaluation exercises previously carried out within probation should minimise the number of harmonisation issues. These issues would be dealt with if the trust application process is successful and once the trust becomes a legal body, as there is no power to do so before the trust is legally established. The harmonisation activities would be undertaken in a phased approach after 1 April 2010.

### Probation: Finance

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the additional £1.6 million funding awarded to the Probation Service in Wales in 2010-11 is to be allocated. [306505]

**Maria Eagle:** The Director of Offender Management in Wales (DOM) is responsible for allocating the additional funding. This will be used as part of the DOM's commissioning responsibility to deliver offender services in Wales.

Currently commissioning priorities are being considered and discussed with the probation service. These include increasing offender services around community resettlement, alternatives to short custodial sentences and increasing provision to support women offenders. The outcome of those discussions will help determine the range of offender services to be delivered through probation. Discussions have also included how the delivery of such additional services could provide jobs for trainee probation officers.

### Road Traffic Act

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of road traffic cases which proceeded to trial did so under section 172 of the Road Traffic Act in each of the last five years. [305444]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of proceedings at magistrates courts for offences under section 172 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as a percentage of all motoring offences proceeded against at magistrates courts, England and Wales 2006 and 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Prior to 2006 data under section 172 were recorded within 'other miscellaneous motoring offences' and cannot be separately identified.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

*The number of proceedings at magistrates courts for offences under section 172 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, and the percentage these are of all court proceedings for motoring offences, England and Wales, 2006 and 2007[1] [2]*

| | Number of offences | |
|---|---|---|
| *Offence description* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Section 172 of the Road Traffic Act 1988: Keeper of vehicle or person other than keeper of vehicle failing to supply information as to driver's identity as required by or on behalf of Chief Officer of Police. | 19,172 | [3]28,929 |
| Total motoring offences proceeded against at magistrates courts. | 1,719,888 | 1,420,563 |
| Percentage of section 172 offences compared with total motoring offences proceeded against at magistrates courts. | 1 | 2 |

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are use.

[3] The penalty for this offence was raised to six points by the Road Safety Act 2006 which was implemented in 2007. The increase in the number of proceedings is likely due to offenders refusing a fixed penalty and opting for trial.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

### Young Offenders

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many of those under the age of 18 years who were convicted of offences related to shoplifting have been *(a)* directed to take up training courses as part of their sentence and *(b)* exclusively directed to take up training courses in each year since 2004; [305324]

(2) how many of those under the age of 18 years old have been *(a)* directed to take up training courses as part of their sentence and *(b)* exclusively directed to take up training courses in each year since 2004. [305325]

**Maria Eagle:** Data are not available centrally on specific numbers of under-18s directed to do training as part of their sentence. Shoplifting is categorised as a separate offence and this and other sentencing data are published by the Ministry of Justice annually:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminalannual.htm

Young offenders aged under 18 years may be directed to undertake a range of reparative and rehabilitative programmes as part of their sentences. In addition a young offender can be required to attend a specified place of education as part of a sentence for example if given a youth rehabilitation order with an education requirement.

Through the national youth justice indicators the Youth Justice Board require that young offending teams work to encourage the participation of young offenders in education, training or employment by the end of their sentence. This indicator is also part of the local authority national indicator set. Figures for 2007-08 showed that 71.1 per cent. of young offenders were engaged by the end of their sentence.

For information, the full trends since 2004-05 are provided as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 74.2 |
| 2005-06 | 75.1 |
| 2006-07 | 68.7 |
| 2007-08 | 71.1 |

All young people in youth custody are expected to participate in education and training and this forms a central element of custodial regimes. Custody often provides a unique opportunity to engage young people in learning and for young people to develop their skills. The sentence planning process in custody includes planning education and training in accordance with the young person's needs.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on decompression periods for staff working in Afghanistan. [305779]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Most home civil service staff working in Afghanistan spend six weeks in country and two weeks out of the country. Alternatively, staff may work three weeks in country and spend one week out of the country provided the cost is no greater.

At the end of their assignment staff must take a minimum of a four-week annual leave break after a one-year posting, five weeks after an 18-month posting, and six weeks after a two-year posting.

### Afghanistan: Poverty

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects on levels of poverty in Helmand province of his Department's activities in that area in the last 12 months; and what mechanisms are used to measure that effect. [306649]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The most recent data relating to poverty in Afghanistan were collected in 2007-08 as part of the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA). Analysis of NRVA data relating to Helmand will be published in early 2010. Data relating to changes in poverty in Helmand over the last 12 months are currently being collected and will be available in due course.

The Department for International Development (DFID) measures the effects of all its programmes through routine monitoring and evaluation.

### Bonn Declaration

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated under each budget heading for the purposes of meeting its obligations under the Bonn Declaration in each year from 2001 to 2008. [306700]

**Mr. Thomas:** The 2001 Bonn Declaration committed signatories to providing $410 million per year, from 2005-08, for developing countries to respond to climate change. The European Community was one of these signatories and the UK Government agreed to contribute approximately £30 million ($61.467 million) per year. The following table provides the amount spent through each budget heading, which has exceed that original commitment.

*£ million*

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Special Climate Change Fund | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.8 |
| Clean Energy Investment Framework | 0.43 | 1.3 | 0.36 |
| Global Environment Facility (climate focal area) | 10.4 | 10.4 | 11.66 |
| Bilateral (including research) | 9.27 | 18.35 | 26.18 |
| Least Developed Countries Fund | | | 3.5 |
| Other Government Department spending | 6.63 | 7.4 | 7.4 |
| Total | 30.03 | 40.75 | 52.9 |

The Department for International Development (DFID) contributed through the Special Climate Change Fund, the Clean Energy Investment Framework, the Global Environment Facility, the Least Developed Countries Fund and through Bilateral aid.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to assist with the holding of local elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2010. [306514]

**Mr. Thomas:** Successful completion of the next electoral cycle in the Democratic Republic of Congo will be vital for the continued economic development and stabilisation of the country. The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed more than £27 million in support of local elections.

DFID support has helped to build the capacity of the Independent Electoral Commission and finance preparations for local elections. This includes revision of the electoral roll and voter registration, both of which will also be used in preparation for the presidential ballot.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305681]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** No funds have been spent by the Department for International Development (DFID) on works or refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in our buildings in the last 12 months.

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305862]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The information requested is not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306069]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** This information is not held centrally and would incur disproportionate costs to collate.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305492]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Ministry of Justice publishes annual statistics on freedom of information requests received by central Government Departments on its website. The annual report for 2008 can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/freedom-of-information-annual-report-2008.pdf

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what redesigns of websites operated by his Department have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306159]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development's (DFID's) website has been redeveloped to allow greater scope for engagement with the UK and overseas public. The redeveloped site allows DFID to give far more detail of projects and programmes than before and is easier for the web visitor to navigate and search.

The work was undertaken in three phases:

September 2008—a short term refresh to the homepage design.

December 2008—next step in the graphical design of the website including more multimedia content.

April 2009—completion of web redevelopment and design with introduction of a content management system.

The costs were £970,419, which include design, build, testing, hosting, licensing and management.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* laptop computers, *(b)* desktop computers and *(c)* memory sticks his Department has recorded as having been (i) lost and (ii) stolen from its offices in Scotland in each of the last 10 years. [306694]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** There has been no loss or theft of *(a)* laptop computers, *(b)* desktop computers or *(c)* memory sticks from the Department for International Development's office in Scotland between financial years 2002-03 and 2008-09. Records of loss and theft are held for a seven-year period and are therefore not available for years before 2002-03.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertainment in the last 12 months. [305535]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** It is not possible to provide expenditure figures for hospitality and entertainment without incurring disproportionate costs. All entertainment and hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305520]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a central budget for photography or the production of videos. It is not possible to collate information from country office and departmental budgets without incurring disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305906]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** It is not possible to provide information of all training courses attended by civil servants or the amount spent by the Department for International Development (DFID) on overseas training courses without incurring disproportionate costs. Sub-departments and overseas offices within DFID are responsible for arranging and financing staff training. Information on the amount spent on training courses is not held centrally.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305659]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The information requested is not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Travel by Ministers, special advisers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively, and all spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

I refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Office annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July 2009 and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.asp

### Public Appointments: Females

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 607W, what steps his Department is taking with other countries to ensure well-qualified women candidates are appointed to senior posts in *(a)* CEDAW and *(b)* the UN Agency for Women. [307089]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The UK is committed to promoting open, transparent and merit-based appointment processes for UN leadership positions. The purpose of this is to ensure that the best people are appointed to important roles such as the head of the new UN agency for women.

For elections, such as for the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women's Committee (CEDAW), our policy is always to support the best-qualified candidates.

The Department for International Development works with national women's ministries in a number of developing countries to strengthen their capacity on gender equality and their engagement in international institutions working on gender.

### Rwanda: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in the Council of Ministers in respect of (i) leaders and (ii) members of the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda based in European countries; and if he will make a statement. [303706]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

We have been working closely with the EU Special Representative for the Great Lakes, to encourage a coordinated EU approach to the Europe-based leadership of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). We have also worked in the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on some of these individuals under UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1807. There are currently no indications of the presence in the UK of any of the leading members of the FDLR.

The UK is committed to enforcing the UN sanctions regime on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). We will not hesitate to support sanctions against any person or company providing support to armed groups in the region where there is sufficient evidence to do so.

We have been in touch with the Group of Experts, established by UNSCR 1807, throughout the process of producing their report, and have offered as much assistance as possible to aid in its enquiries. The UK has also shared information on the activities of militia groups, such as the FDLR, as requested by the Group of Experts and we will continue to do so. We continue to work with our European partners to disrupt lines of communication between the FDLR in DRC and FDLR support networks, for example, closing relevant websites.

### Slavery: Developing Countries

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to counter modern slavery in developing countries. [305733]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) supports long-term programmes to help tackle poverty and social exclusion, which are some of the underlying causes of slavery and forced labour.

DFID has contributed £19.85 million to the work of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to tackle forced labour issues.

DFID is also currently supporting two Anti-Slavery International (ASI) projects that address modern day slavery. In West Africa (Niger, Mali, Chad and Mauritania) DFID is providing £447,870 to support a five-year project that is addressing Descent Based Slavery. Over a five-year period (April 2008 to March 2013) DFID is also providing £1,435,049 to ASI to support its work in Tanzania, India, the Philippines, Togo, Peru and Costa Rica in tackling slavery and child labour.

### Sudan

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Darfur province in Sudan. [306822]

**Mr. Thomas:** We receive regular joint assessment reports prepared by the United Nations and Government agencies. The most recent (October 2009) indicated that humanitarian indicators across Darfur were stable, although concerns were raised about the likely impact of a poor harvest. We remain deeply concerned at both the quantity and quality of humanitarian assistance in Darfur which have still not fully recovered following the expulsion and closure of NGOs by the Sudanese Government in March 2009. The continued insecurity in the region exacerbates this problem.

A secure Darfur in which humanitarian assistance can reach those who need it remains a key objective for the UK. We regularly engage with the Government of Sudan on this issue both bilaterally and through the High Level Committee. UK officials again emphasised the importance of the Government of Sudan taking action to tackle impunity at a high level meeting in Geneva on 30 November attended by the UN, donor countries and the Government of Sudan. We continue to raise these issues in meetings in Khartoum with senior members of the Sudanese Government.

### United Nations: Females

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 607W, for what reason his Department has no plans to promote a UK candidate for either appointment. [307082]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The United Nations (UN) has recently agreed to the creation of two new senior leadership posts on gender in the UN. General Assembly Resolution 63/311 creates a new Under-Secretary General post to head a new UN Gender Entity. Security Council Resolution 1888 creates a post of Special Representative Against Sexual Violence in Conflict at Assistant Secretary-General level. The UK supported the establishment of both of these posts. Appointments will be made by the UN Secretary-General. The UK is committed to the promotion of open, transparent, merit-based appointment processes by the UN, which encourage the best candidates to come forward.

The UK strongly supports the creation of a new UN gender agency, on which there will be further negotiations during the current session of the General Assembly. Our priority is to bring negotiations on the establishment of the entity to a successful and speedy resolution.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Army Land Rovers are operational in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [302829]

**Bill Rammell:** There are currently no Army Land Rovers in Iraq. I am withholding information about Army Land Rovers in Afghanistan as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

### Afghanistan: Armed Forces

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms are in place to assess progress in the training of the Afghan military and police force. [303138]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The progress of the Afghan National Security Forces is regularly assessed by the ISAF forces mentoring and partnering them against the ISAF Capability Milestone criteria.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many districts of Afghanistan are under the complete control of Afghan forces. [303911]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Afghan National Security Forces have taken on the lead for providing security in Kabul, a process which began in August 2008.

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of recruits to *(a)* the Afghan national army and *(b)* the Afghan police force who are illiterate. [303931]

**Bill Rammell:** The literacy rates for both the Afghan national army and Afghan national police currently estimated to stand at 93 per cent. for officers, 30 per cent. for non-commissioned officers and 11 per cent. for enlisted soldiers.

ISAF are working to address the low literacy levels with the Afghan Government. This has included letting two contracts to help with the education of recruits to the Afghan national army and Afghan national police.

UK forces in Helmand work to improve the basic literacy and numeracy of members of the Afghan national army and Afghan national police by means of train-the-trainer programmes run by the Adjutant General Corps Education & Training Service and the Ministry of Defence police respectively.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-54, on Afghanistan and Pakistan, (1) how many of the extra 10,000 Afghan army troops will be deployed in Helmand province for *(a)* training and *(b)* offensive and manoeuvre operations; [304324]

(2) whether it is planned that the extra 10,000 Afghan army troops will be permanently based in Helmand province after their training is completed. [304325]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Helmand province is a key priority for ISAF. We continue to encourage the deployment of additional Afghan forces to Helmand; however, this is ultimately a decision for the Government of Afghanistan.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the strength and capabilities of the *(a)* Afghan National Army and *(b)* Afghan National Police. [304365]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The total number of Afghan National Army (ANA) currently stands at approximately 96,000. The ANA has developed well as a fighting force over the last few years and is becoming increasingly capable of participating in operations with ISAF forces as is shown by the role they recently played in contributing to Operation Panther's Claw this summer.

The total number of Afghan National Police (ANP) currently stands at approximately 94,000. Although the ANP capacity has improved through US and EU led programmes, their capability varies across the forces and continues to suffer from major problems including low levels of literacy ~~and~~ high levels of corruption.

Both ANA and ANP played a key role in leading the security for the Afghan presidential election this summer.

We will continue to work closely with the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to build the capacity of the ANA and ANP.

### Afghanistan: Detainees

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of those held in detention in Afghanistan had been captured by British armed forces in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [301432]

(2) how many people were held in detention by British armed forces in Afghanistan in each month since 2001; [301433]

(3) how many of those held in detention by British armed forces in Afghanistan *(a)* have been handed over to US forces, *(b)* have been handed over to Afghan security forces, *(c)* have been released and *(d)* remain in British custody; and if he will make a statement. [301435]

**Bill Rammell:** Between July 2006 and 31 October 2009 UK forces detained 739 people. The UK does not transfer detainees to other ISAF nations unless it is required by our Memoranda of Understanding with the Denmark or the Czech Republic, where we hand detainees taken by Danish or Czech forces back to them for transfer to Afghan authorities or release. As of 31 October 2009, the UK held 10 people in detention. We hold capture details relating to a total of a further seven individuals detained by UK forces between 2001 and June 2006.

| | *Detained* | *Released*[1] | *Transferred to Afghan Authorities*[1] | *Died in UK medical facilities of wounds sustained on the battle field*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2006* | | | | |
| July | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| August | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| September | 16 | 3 | 13 | 0 |
| October | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| November | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| December | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *2007* | | | | |
| January | 6 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| February | 14 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| March | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| April | 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| May | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| June | 10 | 1 | 9 | 0 |
| July | 38 | 28 | 8 | 2 |
| August | 11 | 2 | 9 | 0 |
| September | 8 | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| October | 13 | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| November | 34 | 25 | 9 | 0 |
| December | 17 | 14 | 2 | 1 |

| | Detained | Released[1] | Transferred to Afghan Authorities[1] | Died in UK medical facilities of wounds sustained on the battle field[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | | | |
| January | 12 | 1 | 11 | 0 |
| February | 13 | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| March | 10 | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| April | 15 | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| May | 17 | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| June | 11 | 2 | 9 | 0 |
| July | 36 | 12 | 24 | 0 |
| August | 32 | 13 | 19 | 0 |
| September | 21 | 10 | 10 | 1 |
| October | 22 | 6 | 16 | 0 |
| November | 51 | 22 | 29 | 0 |
| December | 42 | 22 | 20 | 0 |
| *2009* | | | | |
| January | 19 | 5 | 14 | 0 |
| February | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| March | 24 | 14 | 10 | 0 |
| April | 9 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| May | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| June | 23 | 8 | 15 | 0 |
| July | 28 | 19 | 9 | 0 |
| August | 23 | 17 | 6 | 0 |
| September | 36 | 24 | 12 | 0 |
| October | 84 | 52 | 22 | 0 |
| Total | 739 | 379 | 352 | 8 |

[1] These columns refer to individuals detained in the month identified. In some cases they may have been released, transferred or died in the following month. It also includes a small number of individuals initially detained by the Danish armed forces who were handed back to Danish forces for release or transfer.

## Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maximum cash allowance awarded to *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian staff in Afghanistan will be for 2010. [300675]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Significant differences in the terms and conditions of employment for military personnel and their civilian colleagues within the MOD make direct comparisons between the two very difficult. Moreover, it is difficult to predict allowances for the whole of 2010, since they are not subject to an annual increase but rather the result of periodic review.

The maximum monthly allowance for a MOD civilian in Afghanistan is £7,750. The quoted figure is before tax and is based on the most senior individual working in Helmand Province, undertaking a working week in excess of 82 hours. Allowances paid to civil servants reflect the significant additional hours worked above and beyond their contracted working week and the unique conditions experienced in theatre. They vary considerably and are dependent on an individual's grade, location and working week. Should the conditions in theatre remain as they are currently, then the quoted figure will remain unchanged in 2010.

It is harder to be precise about the level of military allowances. Service pay and conditions are completely different to those of their civilian counterparts and the precise sum of the whole package that military personnel receive, including the tax-free operational allowances, will depend on their rank, personal circumstances and experience. The military package, which includes an X-factor for all schooling allowances and housing for the eligible, is designed to take account of the unique nature of military life. Full details of the Service Pay and Allowance Package are available on the Armed Forces Benefits Calculator internet site available at the following link:

www.mod-abc.co.uk

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to *(a)* increase force readiness levels and *(b)* maintain the present level of UK commitment to the war in Afghanistan. [303148]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Current operations in Afghanistan remain the main effort for our armed forces and the Ministry of Defence. We are committed to an enduring force level of 9,500 as announced by the Prime Minister on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 832-36.

We acknowledge the pressure these operations place on our contingent capability. As I said to the House of Commons Defence Committee on 24 November 2009, readiness levels have improved this year and we are committed to continuous improvement to the UK's contingent capacity, focusing on those contingency tasks most likely to arise.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on potential EU military contributions to the campaign in Afghanistan. [303885]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I have had numerous bilateral discussions with our European allies on their national contributions to the NATO-led campaign in Afghanistan, though not in the context of a specific EU military contribution.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the latest copy of Unclassified Metrics by the Strategic Advisory Group HQ ISAF. [304354]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Metrics being developed for General McChrystal currently remain an internal, classified ISAF document. Should an unclassified version be produced we will, in consultation with NATO, consider placing it in the Library of the House.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents of theft of British military supplies during transit from the port of debarkation in Pakistan to the final destination in Afghanistan have been reported since 2 February 2009. [304363]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Between 2 February 2009 and 5 December 2009 no incidents of theft of British military supplies transiting from the port of disembarkation in Pakistan to Afghanistan have been reported.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many insurgents have been captured by British forces in each month in 2009 to date; and how many of them *(a)* were subsequently released, *(b)* were transferred to Afghan authorities and *(c)* remain in British custody. [304367]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to the hon. Member for Leominster (Bill Wiggin).

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contacts between British forces and the Taliban have occurred in each month of 2009. [305021]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The numbers of troops in contact events (regardless of the instigator) involving the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and insurgents in Helmand province as part of Task Force Helmand for each complete month from January 2009 for which verified data are available are shown in the following table.

| | *Number of contacts*[1] |
|---|---|
| *2009* | |
| January | 180 |
| February | 180 |
| March | 250 |
| April | 150 |
| May | 210 |
| June | 420 |
| July | 410 |
| August | 400 |
| September | 410 |
| October | 340 |

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10.

ISAF forces operating in Helmand come from a number of different nations, which often operate closely alongside each other and alongside Afghan Army and police units. Without undertaking a detailed assessment of each engagement, it is not possible to define precisely in every case whether an attack was aimed at UK forces, at our ISAF partners, or against Afghan units. Data are therefore collected on the number of incidents involving ISAF forces in Helmand without attempting to identify the nationality of the forces actually being attacked. The environment in which forces are operating makes it extremely difficult to distinguish between incidents initiated by insurgent forces and those initiated by ISAF.

These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can be an estimate only, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times the readiness levels for the 500 extra troops to be sent to Afghanistan have changed since 14 October 2009; and what the levels were in each case. [305022]

**Bill Rammell:** Following the Prime Minister's announcement to the House on 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 302, that UK troop numbers in Afghanistan would be increased by 500, subject to certain conditions being met, 1 Royal Welsh were placed on 14 days notice to move. 1 Royal Welsh's readiness remained unchanged until the Prime Minister's confirmation to the House on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 834, that this deployment would go ahead.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to which UK location the Camp Bastion War Memorial will be returned following the cessation of hostilities. [306478]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** At an appropriate time at the end of operations in Afghanistan, we will consider the future location of the Camp Bastion War Memorial.

## Armed Forces

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where each regiment of the *(a)* Royal Artillery, *(b)* Royal Engineers, *(c)* Royal Signals and *(d)* Household Cavalry is stationed. [305780]

**Bill Rammell:** The following tables provide the location of each major regular unit.

*Royal Regiment of Artillery*

| *Name* | *Location* |
|---|---|
| 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery | Tidworth, Hampshire |
| 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery | Hohne, Germany |
| 4th Regiment Royal Artillery | Topcliffe, North Yorkshire |
| 5th Regiment Royal Artillery | Catterick, North Yorkshire |
| 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery | Colchester, Essex |
| 12th Regiment Royal Artillery | Thorney Island, Hampshire |
| 14th Regiment Royal Artillery | Larkhill, Wiltshire |
| 16th Regiment Royal Artillery | North Luffenham, Rutland |
| 19th Regiment Royal Artillery | Tidworth, Hampshire |
| 26th Regiment Royal Artillery | Gutersloh, Germany |
| 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery | Plymouth, Devon |
| 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery | Larkhill, Wiltshire |
| 39th Regiment Royal Artillery | Harlow Hill, Newcastle |
| 40th Regiment Royal Artillery | Lisburn, Northern Island |
| 47th Regiment Royal Artillery | Thorney Island, Hampshire |
| The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery | St. John's Wood, London |

*Royal Engineers*

| *Name* | *Location* |
|---|---|
| 21 Engineer Regiment | Ripon, North Yorkshire |
| 22 Engineer Regiment | Perham Down, Hampshire |
| 23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault) | Woodbridge, Suffolk |
| 24 Commando Engineer Regiment | Barnstaple, Devon |
| 25 Engineer Regiment | Waterbeach, Cambridge |
| 26 Engineer Regiment | Perham Down, Hampshire |
| 28 Engineer Regiment | Hameln, Germany |
| 32 Engineer Regiment | Hohne, Germany |
| 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) | Wimbish, Essex |
| 35 Engineer Regiment | Paderborn, Germany |
| 36 Engineer Regiment | Maidstone, Kent |
| 38 Engineer Regiment | Antrim, Northern Ireland |
| 39 Engineer Regiment | Waterbeach, Cambridge |
| 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographical) | Thatcham, Berkshire |
| 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group | Chilwell, Nottinghamshire |
| Works Group Royal Engineers (Airfield) | Waterbeach, Cambridge |

*Royal Signals*

| *Name* | *Location* |
|---|---|
| 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment | Herford, Germany |
| 2nd Signal Regiment | York |
| 3rd (United Kingdom) Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment | Bulford, Wiltshire |
| 7th Signal Regiment | Elmpt, Germany |
| 10th Signal Regiment | Corsham, Wiltshire |
| 14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare) | Brawdy, Pembrokeshire |
| 16th Signal Regiment | Elmpt, Germany |
| 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) | Colerne, Wiltshire |
| 22nd Signal Regiment | Stafford, Staffordshire |
| 30th Signal Regiment | Bramcote, Warwickshire |

*Household Cavalry*

| *Name* | *Location* |
|---|---|
| Household Cavalry Regiment | Windsor, Berkshire |
| Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment | Knightsbridge, London |

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where each battalion of the infantry is stationed. [305781]

**Bill Rammell:** The following table shows the home base location of each major regular infantry unit.

| *Name* | *Location* |
|---|---|
| 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards | Windsor |
| 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards | Aldershot, Hampshire |
| 1st Battalion Scots Guard | Catterick, North Yorkshire |
| 1st Battalion Irish Guard | Windsor |
| 1st Battalion Welsh Guard | Aldershot, Hampshire |
| The Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland | Edinburgh, Scotland |
| The Royal Highlanders Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland | Edinburgh, Scotland |
| The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland | Inverness, Scotland |
| The Highlanders, 4th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland | Fallingbostle, Germany |
| The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland | Canterbury, Kent |
| 1st Battalion the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment [illegible]een's and Royal Hampshires) | Paderborn, Germany |
| 2nd Battalion the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires) | Dhekelia, Cyprus |
| 1st Battalion the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's Lancashire's and Border) | Catterick, North Yorkshire |
| 2nd Battalion the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's Lancashire's and Border) | Episkopi, Cyprus |
| 1st Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers | Tidworth, Hampshire |
| 2nd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers | Hounslow, London |

| *Name* | *Location* |
|---|---|
| 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment | Pirbright, Surrey |
| 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment | Celle, Germany |
| 1st Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) | Munster, Germany |
| 2nd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards) | Preston, Lancashire |
| 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's) | Warminster, Wiltshire |
| 1st Battalion the Mercian Regiment (Cheshire) | Catterick, North Yorkshire |
| 2nd Battalion the Mercian Regiment (Worcester and Foresters) | Belfast, Northern Ireland |
| 3rd Battalion the Mercian Regiment (Staffords) | Fallingbostel, Germany |
| 1st Battalion the Royal Welsh (the Royal Welsh Fusilier) | Chester, Cheshire |
| 2nd Battalion the Royal Welsh (the Royal Regiment of Wales) | Tidworth, Hampshire |
| 1st Battalion the Royal Irish Regiment (27th (Inniskilling), 83rd, 87th and the Ulster Defence Regiment) | Tern Hill, Shropshire |
| 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment | Colchester, Essex |
| 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment | Colchester, Essex |
| 1st Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles | Shorncliffe, Kent |
| 2nd Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles | Seria, Brunei |
| 1st Battalion the Rifles | Chepstow, Monmouthshire |
| 2nd Battalion the Rifles | Ballykinler, Northern Ireland |
| 3rd Battalion the Rifles | Edinburgh, Scotland |
| 4th Battalion The Rifles | Bulford, Wiltshire |
| 5th Battalion the Rifles | Paderborn, Germany |

### Armed Forces: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what treaty obligations the UK has to provide military forces overseas. [304451]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

There are over 400 treaties concluded since 1945 of possible relevance to the hon. Member's question. Of these, there are four multilateral treaties which stand out in terms of their importance: the North Atlantic treaty 1949; the treaty on the European Union as amended by the Lisbon Treaty 2007; the treaty of economic, social and cultural collaboration and collective self-defence 1948 as amended by the Paris Agreements of 23 October 1954 on the Western European Union; and the Charter of the United Nations 1945. Before the UK were to provide military forces overseas by virtue of relevant provisions in any of these treaties, it would be necessary for a separate decision to be taken by the Government to commit UK armed forces for deployment abroad.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of personnel in each *(a)* service and *(b)* corps of the Army are in breach of their harmony guidelines on (i) tour intervals and (ii) individual separated service. [305020]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Each service operates different harmony guidelines. Royal Navy personnel should not exceed 660 days deployed in 36 months, the Army 415 days in 30 months, and the RAF 280 days detached in 24 months. Against these criteria our most recent information is that <1 per cent. of the Royal Navy, 10.3 per cent. of the Army and 5 per cent. of RAF personnel are operating above harmony guidelines.

The information on tour intervals and corps of the Army is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Health

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel in each armed service were classified as *(a)* unfit for duty, *(b)* fit for limited deployability for medical reasons and *(c)* overweight at the latest date for which information is available. [303124]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The MOD is currently in the process of modifying the criteria against which it collates management information on the medical fitness of Service personnel. Whereas previously we have measured the medical "fitness for task" of Service personnel, we are now moving to a process of measuring the numbers who are medically "fully deployable", "limited deployable" and "non-deployable". This should help us to focus our efforts on maximising the numbers available to deploy on operations.

The single Services and DASA have been working on the collection and validation of figures recorded against the new criteria, using data obtained from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. The aim is to provide reliable, validated data by spring 2010.

A new Armed Forces Weight Management Policy came into force on 1 October 2009, which provides policy for the measurement of body composition and the management of Service personnel who demonstrate increased risk of ill health and inadequate physical fitness owing to their weight. The policy requires each Service to provide annual body composition measurement (BCM) for all personnel, in order to identify an individual's level of health risk and encourage maintenance of a healthy body weight.

Each of the single Services is implementing the policy. The Naval Service Fitness Information Software System (FISS) is currently undergoing user testing and will go live during January 2010, with the first full reporting period being completed 12 months later.

The Army FISS began on 1 April 2009, but roll-out is still in progress and data for a full annual reporting period are not yet available.

The RAF FISS began on 1 October 2007. However, the provision of the data by individuals is voluntary, and prior to the introduction of the revised policy on 1 October 2009 around half of RAF personnel had chosen not to do so. We are therefore unable to supply comprehensive data until a full annual reporting period completes in October 2010.

### Armed Forces: Health Services

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of veterans resident in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland who have a health condition related to their service. [304779]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]*: The information is not held centrally or in the format requested.

It is only possible to identify veterans who have a health condition related to their service if they have made a claim and received an award under the relevant compensation scheme. The War Pensions Scheme (WPS) provides no-fault compensation for all ex-service personnel where illness, injury or death is caused by service before 6 April 2005. The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) which came into force on 6 April 2005, provides no-fault compensation for injury, illness or death caused by service on or after that date.

The following tables provide details of those veterans living in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who were receiving a pension, compensation or both between 2003 and 2009 for a health condition related to their service. The data provided here differ from earlier responses as the level of detail supplied is only available from 2003 onwards.

*Veterans receiving a war pension between 2003 and 2009*

| *Country* | *All* | *Ongoing war pension as at 30 June 2009* | *Gratuity award 1 January 2003 to 30 September 2009* | *Nil award 1 January 2003 to 30 September 2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| All | 169,935 | 142,700 | 19,490 | 7,750 |
| England | 136,290 | 114,070 | 15,945 | 6,275 |
| Scotland | 17,780 | 15,715 | 1,355 | 705 |
| Wales | 10,870 | 8,940 | 1,460 | 470 |
| Northern Ireland | 4,730 | 3,705 | 725 | 295 |
| Great Britain | 270 | 265 | [1]— | [1]— |

*Veterans receiving compensation through the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme between 2003 and 2009*

| *Country* | *Awarded under AFCS* |
|---|---|
| Total | 1,670 |
| England | 1,395 |
| Scotland | 105 |
| Wales | 70 |
| Northern Ireland | 35 |
| Great Britain | 60 |

*Veterans receiving both a war pension and compensation through the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme between 2003 and 2009*

| *Country* | *Awarded under both schemes* |
|---|---|
| Total | 290 |
| England | 225 |
| Scotland | 20 |
| Wales | 20 |
| Northern Ireland | 25 |

[1] Represents a value of fewer than five.

*Notes:*

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five
2. Due to rounding, totals may not equal the sum of their parts.
3. May include personnel who have returned to service.

The 'Great Britain' category refers to individuals that have been identified as residing within Great Britain, but due to invalid address data, cannot be allocated to a particular country.

Due to the time period given and the age profile of the recipients, it is possible that some may have died.

### Armed Forces: Manpower

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* trained requirement, *(b)* trained strength and *(c)* fit for duty strength is of each service in the armed forces. [305017]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest trained requirement and strength of each service is provided in the following table.

|  | *Trained requirement* | *Trained strength* | *Percentage requirement* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *1 October 2009* |  |  |  |
| Royal Navy | 35,660 | 34,980 | 98.1 |
| Army | 101,980 | 100,450 | 98.5 |
| RAF | 40,860 | 39,460 | 96.6 |

The MOD is currently in the process of modifying the criteria against which it collates management information on the medical fitness of service personnel. Whereas previously we have measured the medical "fitness for task" of service personnel, we are now moving to a process of measuring the numbers who are medically "fully deployable", "limited deployable" and "non-deployable". This will help us to focus our efforts on maximising the numbers available to deploy on operations.

We have been working on the collection and validation of figures recorded against the new criteria, using data obtained from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. The aim is to provide reliable, validated data by spring 2010.

### Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers prescribed medication for psychological problems following active service have been posted back to active service in Iraq. [306955]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Specific details of the number of personnel prescribed medication for mental health disorders as a result of active service and who have returned to operational duties are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the individual medical records of members of the armed forces are examined by medical staff prior to deployment and the armed forces use a medical grading system which considers both mental and physical health. Both of these factors mean that personnel are not sent on operational deployment if their medical history gives any significant cause for concern.

### Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much it has cost his Department to maintain the Army in Northern Ireland in each year since 1979. [305411]

**Bill Rammell:** Information is not held back to 1979. It is possible to provide data from the point at which General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland was allocated his own budget to manage. Changes in MOD accounting methodologies over time make year on year comparisons difficult.

The figures in the first table are the cash outturn for the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland Top Level Budget which was first created in 1991-92.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1991-92 | 355 |
| 1992-93 | 436 |
| 1993-94 | 489 |
| 1994-95 | 510 |
| 1995-96 | 475 |
| 1996-97 | 494 |
| 1997-98 | 508 |
| 1998-99 | 509 |
| 1999-2000 | 528 |
| 2000-01 | 535 |

The second table shows outturn figures for the same Top Level Budget for financial years 2001-02 to 2005-06. In 2001-02 resource accounting was introduced in the MOD. The practice of the time was to include cost of capital charges and depreciation in the final outturn figures for Top Level Budgets.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 614 |
| 2002-03 | 718 |
| 2003-04 | 653 |
| 2004-05 | 626 |
| 2005-06 | 580 |

In 2006-07 cost of capital and depreciation charges were removed from Top Level Budget accounts. The following figures therefore reflect cash outturn only.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 309 |
| 2007-08 | 232 |
| 2008-09 | 131 |
| 2009-10 | 114 |

### Armed Forces: Weapons

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at which of his Department's bases in the UK weapons were reported as having been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 years; and how many and what type of weapon was involved in each case. [305627]

**Mr. Quentin Davies** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. For the overall figures of weapons reported as lost or stolen over the requested period, broken down by type, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 419-20W.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration his Department is giving to changing the Mastiff vehicle suspension to improve its off-road performance. [306744]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Department is continually evaluating the performance of all vehicle fleets. Both variants of the Mastiff vehicle have already received upgrades to improve its suspension, performance and reliability and we continue to monitor its performance accordingly.

### Caparo Group

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with Angad Paul in each of the last three years. [302869]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** None of the Ministers within my Department have met with Angad Paul.

### Christmas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305638]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** MOD building decorations including Christmas trees are paid for from non-public funds or staff subscription. The exception was the contracted-out facilities management services for Main Building and Old War Office Building in Whitehall, which did include an annual £5,000 provision for Christmas decorations. This was subsequently removed from the contract in 2008.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [306609]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Decorations in MOD buildings including Christmas trees are not paid for from public funds but are paid for from non-public funds or staff subscription.

## Defence Estates Byelaws Review: Manpower

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalent staff the Defence Estates Byelaws Review Team has on its establishment; and how many posts on the Review Team are vacant. [illegible]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Defence Estates Byelaws Review Team currently has only four staff on its establishment (some of whom have been engaged on other work) and one administrative post which is presently vacant.

## Defence Nuclear Weapons Regulator

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalent staff the Defence Nuclear Weapons Regulator has on its establishment; how many of these are inspectors; and how many posts on the Regulator's establishment are vacant. [illegible]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Nuclear Weapon Regulator (NWR) is an officer within the broader Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR), which regulates both the nuclear weapons and nuclear propulsion programmes.

DNSR has 23 full-time equivalent staff; 16 of these are inspectors. Of these 23 staff, 10 report to NWR and, of these 10, six are inspectors. One inspector post (managed by NWR) is currently vacant on a short-term basis pending the arrival of the nominated individual. There are no other DNSR vacancies.

Some members of DNSR support both activities, so the number of people that NWR manages is not the same as the number of people involved in regulating the nuclear weapons programme.

## Defence: Equipment

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress is being made in the *(a)* procurement, *(b)* production and *(c)* delivery to combat zones in Afghanistan of vehicles offering increased protection against roadside bombs and other improvised explosive devices. [306517

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We are continuously delivering improvements to our fleet of protected vehicles in Afghanistan to ensure that they meet operational requirements. By the end of this year the number of vehicles in theatre will have increased by 36 per cent. since August; this includes 93 per cent. more Mastiff and 77 per cent. more Ridgback. We are also buying Warthog vehicles to replace the Viking on operations in Afghanistan, and, as announced by the Prime Minister on 1 September their delivery is being brought forward. The first Coyote and Husky vehicles have been delivered to training, and the first vehicles will deploy to Afghanistan before the end of the year.

We are also looking to the future and anticipating new threats, and have begun a programme to develop the next generation of light protected patrol vehicles.

## Defence: Expenditure

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* expenditure and *(b)* near cash expenditure there was on defence (i) including and (ii) excluding military operations in each year since 1997. [illegible]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The MOD's total expenditure (outturn) in near cash and non cash, including and excluding the cost of all military operations charged to RfR 2, for each year since 2001-02 is provided as follows.

£000

| | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Total MOD outturn* | | | | | | | | |
| Near cash | 24,511,054 | 26,930,775 | 27,795,583 | 28,876,022 | 29,635,000 | 31,245,735 | 31,820,049 | 35,568,736 |
| Non cash | 13,483,254 | 21,180,812 | 12,734,259 | 10,233,569 | 11,664,951 | 9,943,505 | 11,723,214 | 10,080,378 |
| Total | 37,994,308 | 48,111,587 | 40,529,842 | 39,109,591 | 41,299,951 | 41,189,240 | 43,543,263 | 45,649,114 |
| *Less military operations* | | | | | | | | |
| Near cash | 550,597 | 1,381,971 | 1,349,132 | 1,039,093 | 1,201,921 | 1,731,368 | 2,744,977 | 3,696,650 |
| Non cash | 35,488 | 54,148 | 144,298 | 72,930 | 65,170 | 65,250 | 286,938 | 394,554 |
| Total | 586,085 | 1,436,119 | 1,493,430 | 1,112,023 | 1,267,091 | 1,796,618 | 3,031,915 | 4,091,204 |
| *Net MOD outturn* | | | | | | | | |
| Near cash | 23,960,457 | 25,548,804 | 26,446,451 | 27,836,929 | 28,433,079 | 29,514,367 | 29,075,072 | 31,872,086 |
| Non cash | 13,447,766 | 21,126,664 | 12,589,961 | 10,160,639 | 11,599,781 | 9,878,255 | 11,436,276 | 9,685,824 |
| Total | 37,408,223 | 46,675,468 | 39,036,412 | 37,997,568 | 40,032,860 | 39,392,622 | 40,511,348 | 41,557,910 |

The Department did not produce full accounts until the introduction of Resource Accounting and Budgeting for the financial year 2001-02. Prior to this, the Department's outturn was reported in the end of year "Appropriations Accounts and Estimates Reports", copies of which can be found in the Library of the House. Appropriations Accounts do not, however, separately identify the cost of operations or the costs of the security and intelligence services. This information is not held centrally.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of gross domestic product was spent on defence *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding the cost of military operations in each year since 2007-08. [illegible]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The requested information is provided in the following table.

| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|
| National GDP[1] (£000) | 1,417,797,000 | 1,435,086,000 |
| Total MOD outturn (£000) | 43,543,263 | 45,649,114 |
| Percentage of GDP | 3.07 | 3.18 |
| Net MOD outturn less military operations (£000) | 40,511,348 | 41,557,960 |
| Percentage of GDP | 2.86 | 2.90 |

[1] GDP figures based on those published by HM Treasury

The Outturn figures for 2009-10 will be published in the annual report in July 2010.

### Departmental Art Works

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on art works in the last 12 months. [306447]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** No works of art have been purchased by the Ministry of Defence in the last 12 months. Some works displayed within Ministers' departmental private offices are from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions. The most recent details of acquisitions made by the GAC were published on 5 October 2009 and are available on the GAC website:

http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/information/publications.asp

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many residential properties his Department owns; and how many *(a)* are occupied and *(b)* have been empty for more than six months. [303995]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 3 December 2009]*: Much of the stock of service family accommodation (SFA) in England and Wales is owned by Annington Homes Ltd. and leased by the Department. Of the 49,828 SFA properties in the UK, 7,872 were void as at 1 December 2009 of which 3,345 have been void for more than six months.

The Department accepts that the number of voids is too high and is taking active steps to reduce this, although a management margin for refurbishment and to allow unit moves will always be required.

We do not hold central records for non-SFA residential properties owned by the Department.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305663]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Due to an increased number of Ministers, my Department has incurred costs of £139,000 excluding VAT, on office works and refurbishments in the last 12 months.

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the energy efficiency rating is for each of his Department's buildings in London. [306322]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I have placed in the Library of the House a list of the operational energy ratings and energy bands for buildings' occupied by my Department and its agencies, including those in London for which a display energy certificate has been produced.

### Departmental Empty Property

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many properties owned by his Department are unused; and for how long each such property has been unused. [304333]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Details of all properties of all types on the Ministry of Defence (MOD) estate that are unused, and the length of time each has been so, is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Energy

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [305945]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** A list of the operational energy ratings and energy bands for buildings occupied by this Department and its agencies for which a Display Energy Certificate (in Scotland, an Energy Performance Certificate) has been produced. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305501]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Statistics published by the Ministry of Justice on Freedom of Information in central Government for 2008 show that of a total of 2,692 non-routine requests received by the Department (based on aggregated quarterly data) 73 per cent. (1,972) received a substantive response within 20 days. 84 per cent. (2,269) of requests were dealt with 'in time', that is within 20 days by meeting the deadline or other permitted extension deadline.

The statistics can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

and copies are available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what redesigns of websites operated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such redesign was. [306164]

**Bill Rammell:** The Ministry of Defence and armed forces collectively maintain four corporate websites. Identified redesign and implementation costs on these are provided in the following table.

| *Website* | *URL* | *Cost (£)* | *Note* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ministry of Defence | www.mod.uk | 150,000 | The redesign consisted of 17 work packages during the period June 2007-end March 2008[1] |
| Royal Navy | www.royalnavy.mod.uk | n/a | This site has not been redesigned since 27 June 2007 |
| British Army | www.army.mod.uk | 75,000 | Redesign was completed 30 May 2008[2] |
| Royal Air Force | www.raf.mod.uk | n/a | This site has not been redesigned since 27 June 2007 |

[1] Packages of work included: general template enhancements, home page, accessibility and multimedia improvements, development of user-generated page rating functionality, FOI database enhancements.
[2] Design phase included information architecture, navigation schema, look and feel.

Staff costs are excluded as redesign costs cannot be disaggregated from the ongoing cost of maintaining the websites.

In addition, the Department also maintains the following websites classed as Executive agencies by Central Office of Information (COI) within the Service Transformation Agreement.

| *Website* | *URL* | *Cost (£)* | *Note* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Service Personnel and Veterans Agency | www.veterans-uk.info | n/a | Expected completion date of redesign is end December 2009[1] |
| UK Defence Standardisation | www.dstan.mod.uk | n/a | This site has not been redesigned since 27 June 2007 |
| Defence Analytical Services Agency | www.dasa.mod.uk | n/a | Redesign was completed in April 2008[2] |
| Defence Analytical Services Agency | www.dasasurveys.mod.uk | n/a | This site has not been redesigned since 27 June 2007. The website is no longer in use |
| Disposal Services Authority | www.edisposals.com | 12,000 | The redesign consisted of the addition of a portal page and MOD art gallery prints completed in phases during 2009 |
| Defence Contracts Bulletin | www.contracts.mod.uk | n/a | Redesign was completed in October 2007[3] |
| British Forces Post Office | www.bfpo.mod.uk | n/a | This site has not been redesigned since 27 June 2007 |

[1] No hard costs as the redesign is being carried out in-house.
[2] The redesign was implemented using existing DASA web team resources only. There were no non-staffing costs associated with the redesign. It is not possible to distinguish between redesign resource and routine website maintenance and development resource over the period of the redesign.
[3] The redesign was undertaken at no cost to the MOD through a concession contract with a third party. No public funds have been expended on maintaining, updating and providing the website since its inception in 2002 or will be expended in FY 2009-10.

A number of other websites are run by different parts of the Ministry of Defence, but these are not managed centrally. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* laptop computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* items of office furniture and *(d)* works of art have been (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each of the last three years; whether his Department has made an insurance claim in respect of each such item; and what the estimated value of each item was. [300592]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The MOD takes any loss of information, associated media storage devices and valuable assets very seriously and has robust procedures in place to mitigate against such occurrences. New processes, instructions and technological aids are also being constantly implemented to mitigate human errors and to raise awareness of every individual in the Department with regards to information assets, information and its security. The quantity and impact of lost or stolen data has been significantly reduced due to these steps and the use of appropriate encryption in the MOD.

MOD units are not mandated to centrally report incidents of the loss or theft of mobile phones or office furniture nor record any related insurance claims. No work of art for which MOD is responsible has been reported lost or stolen during the last three years. To gather the further data beyond that reported below would incur a disproportionate cost.

For information on mobile telephones I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 33W, to the hon. Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer).

For information on laptop computers I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Armed Forces Minister, Bob Ainsworth, on 24 March 2009, *Official Report,* columns 271-72W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

No insurance claims have been made in respect of any of the above items in the MOD since 2006, which, in common with other Government Departments, does not generally insure and, instead, bears it own risks.

### Departmental Pay

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years. [300631]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In the case of MOD fee earners, who are taken on for a temporary period to provide a particular service or specialist skill, they are paid only an agreed fee for their work.

In the case of consultancy work MOD places a contract on the basis that the contractor delivers a defined output at an agreed price. Individual remuneration is a matter for the contractor.

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300632]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** No bonuses or incentives were paid to consultants or contractors in 2006-07 or 2007-08. In the financial year 2008-09, a total of £1,860 was paid to two individuals.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what payments his Department has made to Green Issues in the last 12 months; for what purposes such payments were made; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305250]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Payments made to Green Issues Communications so far in financial year 2009-10 have totalled approximately £195,000.

The payments are for a contract to provide support to the Submarine Dismantling Project in the areas of consultation and communications.

No other records of central payments to Green Issues have been found in the last 12 months.

I shall not place a copy of the contract in the Library as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305514]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Photographs or video material of Ministers sourced by the Department would typically be produced by MOD photographers or video production teams and utilise existing internal resources. Therefore, individual costs cannot be easily identified and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### EU Law

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* statutory instruments and *(b)* other regulations his Department has brought forward to meet obligations arising from EU law in this parliament. [304175]

**Bill Rammell:** Central records of statutory instruments made under specific powers have only been maintained by the Statutory Instruments Registrar since 2001. There are no central records maintained of 'other regulations'. Since that time, the Department has made no statutory instruments to meet obligations arising under EU Law, under powers contained in the European Communities Act 1972.

### Eurocorps

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consideration he has given to the merits of UK *(a)* support for and *(b)* work with Eurocorps deployments; [306451]

(2) what his policy is on the role for Eurocorps in EU security; and if he will make a statement; [306458]

(3) what assessment he has made of the contribution of Eurocorps in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement; [306481]

(4) what joint missions UK armed forces are undertaking with Eurocorps; and if he will make a statement; [306487]

(5) what assessment he has made of the effect on UK force deployment of the deployment of Eurocorps to Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement; [306488]

(6) what assessment he has made of the contribution of Eurocorps to Kosovo. [306490]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The UK has no involvement with Eurocorps and is currently not undertaking any joint missions with it.

The MOD has no policy on Eurocorps' role in EU security or assessment of its operations, and has not considered the merits of either supporting or working with it in the near future.

The UK regularly assesses the effect of the deployment of overseas forces on UK force deployment in Afghanistan. However, we have not made a specific assessment of the effect of the deployment of Eurocorps forces.

### Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2008

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 92-3W, on Cyprus, what guidance he has issued to the Sovereign Base Areas Administration on whether the Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2008 prohibits the trappings of wild birds in all circumstances. [307044]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The ordinance makes it clear that large scale and non-selective methods of capturing, pursuing or killing wild birds are prohibited. The exception is where such activity is carried out strictly in accordance with a licence issued in that regard by the chief officer for reasons of public health and safety or conservation. The Secretary of State for Defence has therefore not issued any guidance to the Sovereign Base areas administration in relation to the interpretation of the Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2008.

### Hebrides Range

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what additional expenditure his Department plans for Hebrides Range; whether he plans to locate new equipment at the Range; and what plans he has for the Range's role. [305613]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Ministry of Defence is committed to the future of the Hebrides Range. My officials are currently developing plans for new investment in the range to ensure that it continues to provide the required capability. The plans remain at an early stage of development and it is not possible therefore, to specify the level of investment that will be required. Such investment will, of course, have to be affordable within the overall Defence budget. These plans will not involve redundancies.

I have also asked my officials and the range operator, QinetiQ, to make renewed efforts to market the range and its facilities to overseas customers.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the oldest missile tracking equipment in use at Hebrides Range was installed. [305614]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The oldest missile tracking systems in use at the Hebrides Range are the four Nike Digital Instrumentation Radars (NiDIRs). They were installed between 1977 and 1981.

### Helicopters

**Mr. Keetch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the use of tactical helicopter landing mats for operational purposes; whether his Department plans to procure them in the near future; and if he will make a statement. [305984]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Helicopter landing mats are already in use on operations in Afghanistan at Forward Operating Bases. The requirement for helicopter temporary landing sites is currently being assessed. We will consider any changes to our current equipment in line with the needs of the operation.

### Improvised Explosive Devices

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of British service personnel who have been killed by improvised explosive devices was *(a)* on foot patrol, *(b)* in a vehicle and *(c)* killed in other circumstances. [304350]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The MOD is committed to openly publishing casualty statistics on the number of service personnel killed and wounded on operations. Information on casualties sustained on operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and information on how each individual was killed is included in their eulogies available on our website at the following link.

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets

### Iraq Committee of Inquiry

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what position each official in his Department seconded to the Iraq Committee of Inquiry held between January 2001 and December 2003; and for what matters each was responsible in each such year. [303146]

**Bill Rammell:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Tessa Jowell), on 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 974-75W.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has provided briefing papers to the Iraq Inquiry for its oral evidence sessions. [305779]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Prime Minister has said that the inquiry will have access to all Government papers. My Department has provided papers and information to the inquiry, including, at the inquiry's request, a briefing paper on the no fly zones subsequently used at the inquiry's opening hearing. It is for the inquiry, which is independent, to decide how it uses these papers.

### Kentigern House

**Mr. Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to ensure that the sale of Kentigern House, Glasgow on a sale and leaseback basis *(a)* ensures value for money for the public purse and *(b)* protects jobs within the building. [306466]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave regarding employment at Kentigern House on 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 294W, to the hon. Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Katy Clark).

The Department is satisfied that the overall transaction represents value for money for the public purse.

### Members: Correspondence

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 377W, on Members: correspondence, when he plans to reply to the letters of 27 July 2009 and 31 August 2009 from the hon. Member for Moray on the Court of Appeal costs incurred by his Department. [303892]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I will be writing shortly in reply to the hon. Member's letters.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many seaborne attacks on coalition forces by armed gangs there were *(a)* in the Persian Gulf, *(b)* in the vicinity of Umm Qasr and *(c)* near the Basra oil terminal in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [305782]

**Bill Rammell:** No reports of serious incidents involving attacks by non-state forces operating from the sea against coalition naval assets in these geographical areas have been recorded in 2008 or 2009.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest assessment is of the helicopter fleet's fitness for purpose; and if he will make a statement. [306419]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** We constantly monitor the helicopter fleet to ensure that sufficient helicopters and helicopter hours are provided to meet requirements. The helicopter fleet is currently meeting all its operational and training commitments, both in the UK and overseas.

Helicopter capability is measured in terms of flying hours rather than the number of airframes available, and we continue to review requirements and adjust as necessary.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the capability of the private sector to provide helicopters to complement existing UK defence capability in *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Iraq, *(c)* the Balkans and *(d)* Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [306547]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The United Kingdom does not have enduring military commitments in the Balkans, Iraq or Somalia that require the support of civilian contracted helicopter capability. In Afghanistan, the United Kingdom already maintains a contract for medium and heavy lift helicopters to carry freight in support of military operations. In addition, NATO has a commercial contract delivering freight lift, which UK Forces utilise as part of the wider coalition.

We will always consider opportunities to enhance helicopter capability, including the use of private sector helicopters, provided that service delivery meets defence standards and operational requirements.

## Official Engagements

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions *(a)* Ministers in and *(b)* officials of his Department met representatives of the defence industry in an official capacity since December 2007. [306502]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Defence Ministers and officials meet representatives of the defence industry numerous times each day. A definitive number of such meetings is not held centrally.

## Rescue Services: Pembrokeshire

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times a helicopter from *(a)* RAF Valley, *(b)* RNAS Culdrose and *(c)* Solent Coastguard assisted in a search and rescue operation off the coast of Pembrokeshire in each of the last five years. [306656]

**Bill Rammell:** The number of call outs off the coast of Pembrokeshire from RAF Valley, RNAS Culdrose and the Maritime Coastguard Agency bases at Lee on Solent and Portland, are shown in the following table. Call outs have been defined as those within a 25 mile radius of the Pembrokeshire coastline.

| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Valley | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Culdrose | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Solent bases | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Please note the data for 2009 are up to 30 September.

## Royal Fleet Auxiliary

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the purpose is of the planned operational efficiency programme for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. [306821]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The purpose of the review is to look at the Royal Fleet Auxiliary's business delivery model to consider options for the future and establish if there is scope to enhance efficiencies and deliver greater value for money.

## Shoeburyness

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what quantity of radioactive material was released by the explosion in August 2002 at Shoeburyness; and if he will make a statement. [306958]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** No radioactive material was released in the August 2002 explosion at Shoeburyness.

## St. Kilda

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what maritime vessels are in use for the re-supply of St. Kilda; and what options for future re-supply he is considering. [305615]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** A landing vessel from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment of the Royal Logistic Corps is currently in the process of completing the 2009 re-supply of St. Kilda. We are now considering whether this arrangement should continue or whether the Department should revert to a commercial solution in the future.

## Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution UK forces make to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe; and if he will make a statement. [306452]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe is the headquarters of Allied Command Operations, one of NATO's two strategic military commands. It is responsible for all NATO operations. The UK currently contributes 125 personnel to the Headquarters, and permanently holds the position of the deputy commander, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

## University Officer Training Corps

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* actual number of each officer training corps unit is. [304433]

**Bill Rammell:** As of the 1 December 2009, the establishment and strength of each University Officer Training corps is as follows.

| *UOTC* | *Establishment* | *Strength* |
|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 138 | 142 |
| Birmingham | 138 | 142 |

| *UOTC* | *Establishment* | *Strength* |
|---|---|---|
| Bristol | 138 | 206 |
| Cambridge | 190 | 197 |
| East Midlands | 138 | 175 |
| Edinburgh | 138 | 218 |
| Exeter | 138 | 83 |
| Glasgow and Strathclyde | 138 | 162 |
| Leeds | 138 | 209 |
| Liverpool | 138 | 191 |
| London | 320 | 369 |
| Manchester and Salford | 138 | 150 |
| Northumbrian | 138 | 345 |
| Oxford | 190 | 259 |
| Queens | 138 | 134 |
| Sheffield | 138 | 177 |
| Southampton | 138 | 147 |
| Tayforth | 138 | 239 |
| Wales | 176 | 307 |
| Totals | 2,946 | 3,852 |

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* actual number of Officer Training Corps members has been in each month of 2009 to date. [304434]

**Bill Rammell:** The following table provides aggregate establishment and strength figures for all 19 UOTCs as at the first day of each month of 2009.

| | *Establishment* | *Strength* |
|---|---|---|
| January | 2,946 | 4,415 |
| February | 2,946 | 4,220 |
| March | 2,946 | 3,886 |
| April | 2,946 | 3,796 |
| May | 2,946 | 3,643 |
| June | 2,946 | 3,517 |
| July | 2,946 | 3,368 |
| August | 2,946 | 3,128 |
| September | 2,946 | 2,993 |
| October | 2,946 | 3,705 |
| November | 2,946 | 4,038 |
| December | 2,946 | 3,852 |

## CABINET OFFICE

### Breast Cancer

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were diagnosed with breast cancer in *(a)* Lewes constituency, *(b)* Sussex, *(c)* the South East and (d) England in each year since 1997. [305610]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people were diagnosed with breast cancer in (a) Lewes constituency, (b) Sussex, (c) the South East and (d) England in each year since 1997. [305610]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

Table 1 provides the numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer for each year from 1997 to 2007 for (a) Lewes parliamentary constituency, (b) the counties of East Sussex and West Sussex, (c) South East government office region and (d) England.

So that comparison over time is based on a consistent area, newly diagnosed cases of cancer in the current Brighton and Hove unitary authority, which was part of the former county of East Sussex, have not been included for any year.

*Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1], persons[2], Lewes parliamentary constituency, the counties of East Sussex and West Sussex, South East government office region and England[3], 1997 to 2007[4]*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lewes | 86 | 72 | 65 | 67 | 69 | 71 | 86 | 72 | 72 | 82 | 58 |
| East Sussex | 497 | 432 | 418 | 463 | 431 | 442 | 503 | 435 | 463 | 470 | 425 |
| West Sussex | 634 | 704 | 586 | 672 | 731 | 673 | 648 | 660 | 646 | 647 | 706 |
| South East | 6,108 | 6,072 | 6,215 | 6,097 | 6,169 | 6,078 | 6,405 | 6,402 | 6,527 | 6,420 | 6,437 |
| England | 33,683 | 34,078 | 35,749 | 35,016 | 35,714 | 35,552 | 37,777 | 37,936 | 38,699 | 38,279 | 38,291 |

[1] Breast cancer is coded as C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Around 99 per cent. of breast cancer cases are in women.
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[4] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

### Children: Poverty

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what percentage of children are living in poverty in each region and country of the UK; and what percentage of children in poverty lived in households where one or more members of the household were in work in each year from 2005 to 2009. [302569]

**Helen Goodman:** I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number and percentage of children living in low income households in each region and country of the UK is given in the table for periods where data are available. Regional data are presented as three-year averages, due to variability in single-year estimates.

*Table 1: Number and proportion of children who are living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, before housing costs, by country and region, United Kingdom, 2005-06 to 2007-08*

| *Country or region* | *Number (millions)* | *Percentage (per cent.)* |
|---|---|---|
| England | 2.4 | 22 |
| North East | 0.1 | 28 |
| North West | 0.4 | 27 |

*Table 1: Number and proportion of children who are living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, before housing costs, by country and region, United Kingdom, 2005-06 to 2007-08*

| *Country or region* | *Number (millions)* | *Percentage (per cent.)* |
|---|---|---|
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 0.3 | 26 |
| East Midlands | 0.2 | 26 |
| West Midlands | 0.3 | 27 |
| East of England | 0.2 | 15 |
| London | 0.4 | 23 |
| South East | 0.3 | 15 |
| South West | 0.2 | 18 |
| Scotland | 0.2 | 21 |
| Wales | 0.2 | 27 |
| Northern Ireland | 0.1 | 24 |

Information on the percentage of children in low income households where one or more members of the household were in work is in the table for years where data are available.

*Table 2: Proportion of children living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income who are in households with at least one adult in work, United Kingdom, 2005-06 to 2007-08*

| | *Proportion of children* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 55 |
| 2006-07 | 57 |
| 2007-08 | 57 |

## Christmas

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department has budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [306693]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Cabinet Office has budgeted £3,027 for Christmas trees in 2009.

## Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many plasma screen televisions her Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306078]

**Angela E. Smith:** This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Freedom of Information

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions since 1 April 2008 her Department has not provided the Information Commissioner with all the relevant information he requested *(a)* within 20 working days in respect of a first request and *(b)* within 10 working days of a request for additional relevant information; and if she will make a statement. [307124]

**Angela E. Smith:** In those cases where the Commissioner has issued a Decision Notice, the information the hon. Member has requested is detailed in the Decision Notice. These notices are available on the Commissioner's website at:

http://www.ico.gov.uk/

It is not Cabinet Office practice to comment on those cases that have not yet been resolved.

## Electoral Register

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were registered to vote in each Parliamentary constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available, listed in descending order according to the difference between the two figures. [306765]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many people were registered to vote in each Parliamentary constituency in (a) 1997 and (b) the latest year for which figures are available, listed in descending order according to the greater difference between the two figures. (306765)

Table 1 shows the number of people registered to vote in Parliamentary constituencies in the UK and the differences between (a) 1997 and (b) 2008, which is the latest year for which figures are available.

Boundary changes affecting some Parliamentary constituencies in Scotland came into effect in 2004. For these constituencies some of the difference in the number of people who were registered to vote between 1997 and 2008 may be a result of the boundary changes. Table 2 shows the number of people registered to vote in Parliamentary constituencies in Scotland, where comparisons between the two years are not possible due to this reason.

A copy of the tables has been placed in the Library of the House.

## Future Jobs Fund

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how Future Jobs Fund placements will be categorised in the labour market statistics. [306368]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how Future Job Fund placements will be categorised within labour market statistics. (306368)

Labour market statistics are compiled according to internationally agreed guidelines specified by the International Labour Organisation—an agency of the United Nations. In accordance with these guidelines, people on all government supported training and employment programmes are categorised as being in employment.

## Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305667]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Iraq Committee of Inquiry

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format at each security classification her Department has submitted to the Iraq Inquiry; [307183]

(2) how many and what proportion of the *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in

electronic format at each security classification requested by the Iraq Inquiry have been provided by her Department; and if she will make a statement; [307184]

(3) how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other types of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification the Iraq Inquiry has requested from each Department; and if she will make a statement; [307187]

(4) how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information in electronic format provided to the Iraq Inquiry cannot be disclosed owing to the Government's obligations to foreign journalists or international bodies; and if she will make a statement. [307188]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Prime Minister has said that the Iraq Inquiry will have access to all Government papers it wants to see. The Cabinet Office has provided, or is in the process of providing, copies of all documents and electronic information it holds which the Inquiry has so far requested. Through close liaison with other Government Departments the Cabinet Office is clear that they too have all provided, or will soon provide, all such information as well. The information provided spans every level of Government security classification from the lowest to the highest. Should the Inquiry wish to disclose any Government information, the process for doing so is set out in the information Protocol agreed with the Inquiry and published on the Cabinet Office's website on 29 October.

## Population

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the population was of each *(a)* local authority district and *(b)* unitary authority in the East of England on the latest date for which figures are available. [305099]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the population was of each district and unitary authority in the East of England on the latest date for which figures are available. (305099)

The attached table shows the number of people resident in each local authority district and unitary authority area within the East of England region in mid-2008. These are the latest data available.

*Mid-year population estimates for local authority areas in the East of England, 2008*

| *Area* | *Persons all ages (thousand)* |
|---|---|
| *East* | |
| Luton UA | 192 |
| Peterborough UA | 164 |
| Southend-on-Sea UA | 164 |
| Thurrock UA | 152 |
| | |
| *Bedfordshire* | |
| Bedford | 156 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 135 |
| South Bedfordshire | 120 |
| | |
| *Cambridgeshire* | |
| Cambridge | 123 |
| East Cambridgeshire | 82 |
| Fenland | 92 |
| Huntingdonshire | 169 |
| South Cambridgeshire | 139 |
| | |
| *Essex* | |
| Basildon | 173 |
| Braintree | 142 |
| Brentwood | 73 |
| Castle Point | 90 |
| Chelmsford | 167 |
| Colchester | 181 |
| Epping Forest | 124 |
| Harlow | 79 |
| Maldon | 63 |
| Rochford | 83 |
| Tendring | 148 |
| Uttlesford | 74 |
| | |
| *Hertfordshire* | |
| Broxbourne | 90 |
| Dacorum | 140 |
| East Hertfordshire | 136 |
| Hertsmere | 99 |
| North Hertfordshire | 124 |
| St. Albans | 134 |
| Stevenage | 80 |
| Three Rivers | 88 |
| Watford | 81 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | 108 |
| | |
| *Norfolk* | |
| Breckland | 132 |
| Broadland | 123 |
| Great Yarmouth | 94 |
| King's Lynn and West Norfolk | 145 |
| North Norfolk | 102 |
| Norwich | 136 |
| South Norfolk | 119 |
| | |
| *Suffolk* | |
| Babergh | 87 |
| Forest Heath | 65 |
| Ipswich | 122 |
| Mid Suffolk | 95 |
| St. Edmundsbury | 104 |
| Suffolk Coastal | 126 |
| Waveney | 118 |

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics.

## Public Sector: Pay

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many public sector employees in *(a)* Pendle and *(b)* Lancashire earn more than £18,000 per annum. [304663]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many public sector employees in (a) Fendle and (b) Lancashire earn more than £18,000 per annum. (304663)

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. Annual levels of earnings are estimated from the ASHE, and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, who have been in the same job for more than a year. ASHE is not used to provide estimates of the numbers of employees whose earnings is more than a specific amount, but can be used to provide estimates of percentage of employees in that category.

I attach a table showing the percentage of full-time public sector employees in (a) Pendle and (b) Lancashire earning more than £18,000 per annum in 2009.

*Percentage of full-time public sector employee jobs[1] earning above £18,000 per annum: United Kingdom 2009*

| | Percentage | % Coefficient of Variation |
|---|---|---|
| Lancashire | 22 | 7 |
| Pendle | 7 | 50 |

[1] Full-time employees on adult rates who have been in the same job for more than one year. As at April 2009.

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220. A CV of 50% indicates a low quality estimate.

*Source:*

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

## Third Sector

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions the Office of the Third Sector has had with *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* the Department of Health on the applicability to NHS charities of International Accounting Standard 27; and if she will make a statement. [307170]

**Angela E. Smith:** Officials from the Office of the Third Sector have regular discussions with HM Treasury colleagues on a range of matters relevant to the third sector, including the application of international accounting standards. No discussions have taken place on this subject between the Office of the Third Sector and the Department of Health.

The application of accounting standards and the regulation of charities are distinct matters. Policy in relation to the application of accounting standards is for HM Treasury, which is implementing international financial reporting standards across the central Government sector (including the NHS), advised by the independent Financial Reporting Advisory Board. If there were concerns about the independence of a charity, notwithstanding its accounting treatment, then it would be for the Charity Commission as independent regulator of charities in England and Wales to pursue those concerns.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much money has been allocated to charities from the Hardship Fund in each month since the fund's establishment; and if she will make a statement. [307185]

**Angela E. Smith:** To date, the Hardship Fund has offered grants to 181 third sector organisations worth a total of £15.95 million.

Examples of individual grants include £187,569 to a children's hospice, £185,000 to a homelessness charity, £163,000 to a community organisation that helps disadvantaged families and children and vulnerable adults and £250,000 to a mental health charity.

The monthly breakdown is set out in the following table.

£

| | Award value | Cumulative total |
|---|---|---|
| September | 2,280,449 | 2,280,449 |
| October | 6,823,380 | 9,103,829 |
| November | 5,397,689 | 14,501,518 |
| December | 1,452,773 | 15,954,291 |

## Unemployment: Young People

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of people aged 16 to 24 years old *(a)* were unemployed and *(b)* claimed benefit in each (i) region, (ii) local authority area and (iii) parliamentary constituency (A) in May 1997 and (B) at the latest date for which information is available. [306367]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the Annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Unfortunately the sample size does not support analyses of unemployment of 16-24 year olds for local authorities or parliamentary constituencies.

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of 16-24 year olds who were unemployed in each English Government Office Region, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland in the 12 month period ending February 1998 from the Annual LFS and March 2009 from the APS. As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in table 1.

ONS compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 2 shows the number of computerised claims of Jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for people, aged 16-24 resident in each of the requested geographies in May 1997 and October 2009.

It is not possible to provide the percentage of 16-24 year olds who were claiming JSA. As an alternative, table 3 shows the proportion of 18-24 year olds resident in each of the requested geographies who were claiming JSA in May 1997 and October 2009. This data is not available for parliamentary constituencies in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

As the information provided in these tables is extensive, a copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

## TREASURY

### Bank Services: Pensioners

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate HM Revenue and Customs has made of the number of pensioners in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire who will be contacted with regards to an overpayment of tax on bank or building society interest. [306699]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** As part of the Taxback campaign announced at Budget 2009, HM Revenue and Customs have contacted all 3.4 million beneficiaries of pension credit to encourage those who are overpaying tax on their bank and building society interest to claim it back and, where eligible, to register to receive future interest payments without tax deducted. The latest information on the number of pension credit beneficiaries (May 2009), shows that there were 5,330 beneficiaries in Chorley and 68,710 in Lancashire.

### Banks: Loans

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of buy-to-let mortgages outstanding and *(b)* the monetary value of those mortgages lent by (i) Bradford and Bingley, (ii) Northern Rock, (iii) Lloyds Bank and its subsidiaries and (iv) Royal Bank of Scotland and its UK subsidiaries. [305852]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The financial institutions in which there is public sector investment are managed by their respective boards at arm's length from the Government, on commercial principles. The publication of specific business information is a matter for each company's management.

Bradford and Bingley has published the value of buy-to-let mortgages held at the end of 2008 in its 2008 annual accounts:

http://www.bbg.co.uk/bbg/ir/publications/rp2008/publications2008/ar2008/ar2008_03_04_09.pdf

Northern Rock has published the number and value of buy-to-let mortgages held at the end of 2008 in its 2008 annual accounts:

http://companyinfo.northernrock.co.uk/downloads/2008_annual_report.pdf

RBS has published the value of buy-to-let mortgages held at the end of 2008 in its 2008 annual accounts:

http://files.shareholder.com/downloads/RBS/677416135x0x278481/eb7a003a-5c9b-41ef-bad3-81fb98a6c823/RBS_GRA_2008_09_03_09.pdf

Lloyds Banking Group has not published figures relating to buy-to-let mortgages in its most recent accounts.

### Budget April 2009

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he made at the time of Budget 2009 of the number of jobs supported as a consequence of his Department's *(a)* discretionary fiscal policy and *(b)* quantitative easing measures. [305755]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** On 4 November 2009, HM Treasury published a paper setting out the estimated effect on employment of discretionary economic stimulus put in place since November 2008 see "Employment impact of Government interventions":

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/foi_economic_stimulus.htm

### Child Benefit

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the hon. Member for Hyndburn's constituent Mr. Ronald Howes' application for child benefit will be resolved. [305759]

**Mr. Timms:** The child benefit office replied to my hon. Friend on 9 December 2009.

### Child Care Vouchers

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much and what proportion of the tax revenue foregone on childcare vouchers was accounted for by people paying tax at the basic rate in each year since the inception of that scheme. [306734]

**Mr. Timms:** Child care vouchers given to employees by their employers are exempt from income tax up to specified limits. Employers are not required to report to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) the amounts that they have provided, so HMRC has no administrative record of the proportion of tax foregone that relates to basic rate taxpayers.

However, published research, commissioned by HMRC in 2005, by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) estimated that 70 per cent. of employees receiving Employer Supported Childcare (ESC) were either basic or standard rate taxpayers. The Family Resources Survey (FRS), which is published by the Department for Work and Pensions, for 2007-08 indicates that over a third of employees receiving ESC were higher rate taxpayers, with the remainder basic or standard rate taxpayers.

The Government have published its estimates of the cost of tax and NICs relief on ESC in the pre-Budget report 2008 and the pre-Budget report 2009 Tax Ready Reckoner, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr09_taxreadyreckoner.pdf

The full title of the NatCen report, published in 2006, is "Monitoring of the Reform of the Income Tax and National Insurance Rules for Employer Supported Childcare". It is available on the HMRC website

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/research-report23.htm

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 359-86, on the pre-Budget report, what his policy is on the future of tax relief for employer-supported child care. [306971]

**Mr. Timms:** On 4 December the Prime Minister announced Government's policy in relation to employer supported child care.

The Prime Minister confirmed that all families who currently receive vouchers will continue to get the same support in the future. He also set out that tax relief will be retained for any new child care vouchers that are issued in the future and that, from April 2011, all new recipients of child care vouchers will get the same income tax relief as basic rate taxpayers do currently. This will ensure that the system does not disproportionately benefit higher rate taxpayers.

### Child Trust Fund

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expenditure HM Revenue and Customs incurred on advertising child trust funds in 2008-09. [305557]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Information in relation to the media costs incurred by HM Revenue and Customs for the child trust fund is contained in table 7 of the 2009 Statistical Report which can be viewed on HM Revenue and Customs' website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/statistical-report-2009.pdf

### Child Trust Fund: Operating Costs

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of *(a)* payments under and *(b)* administration of the Child Trust Fund scheme has been in each year since 2006. [305769]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The annual cost of making child trust fund payments can be found in HM Revenue and Customs' departmental accounts, published annually on the HM Revenue and Customs website. Reports for 2006-07 accounts and subsequent years can be found at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

The administration costs incurred by HMRC for the Child Trust Fund in 2008-09 and earlier years are set out in table 8 of the 2009 Statistical Report, which is available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf

### Crown Estate Commissioners: Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what redesigns of websites operated by the Crown Estate have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306202]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Crown Estate has not redesigned any websites it operates since 27 June 2007.

### Crown Estate: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments the Crown Estate has made to Political Developments Limited in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305431]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Crown Estate has made two payments to Political Developments Limited in the last 12 months, one for £562.50 on 10 June 2009, and another for £4,033.75 on 7 August 2009. Both relate to media relations and engagement in respect of land-use issues with local authorities in and around the Luton area, where the Crown Estate has a major landholding. The work was not undertaken as part of a long-term contractual appointment.

### Debt Management Office: Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what redesigns of websites operated by the Debt Management Office have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was; [306194]

(2) what redesigns of websites operated by the Public Works Loans Board have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306203]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** There have been no website redesigns since 27 June 2007.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305691]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** A full PFI refurbishment of 1 Horse Guards road was completed in 2002. Works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers since that date is included in the annual unitary payment made to the PFI provider and is not recorded separately.

### Departmental Conferences/Training Courses

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference; [305874]

(2) how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305904]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Treasury does not hold a central record of attendances at training courses or conferences held overseas and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Energy

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [305971]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 586W.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305488]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Ministry of Justice has published this information in its annual statistics for 2008 on the operation of the FOI Act. The AOJ report is available online at the following URL: the information is in table 2, page 14:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/foi-statistics-report-2008.pdf

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what redesigns of websites operated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such redesign was. [306171]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The 2009 pre-Budget report microsite was redesigned in October 2009. The majority of the websites maintained by HM Treasury have not been subject to any redesign since 2006. Any cost or timescale associated with a redesign is shown in the following table.

*Websites operated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Department*

| *Website* | *Redesign cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk | Nil—no redesign since 2004 |
| http://prebudget.treasury.gov.uk | 4,578.50 |
| http://www.isb.gov.uk | Nil—no redesign since 2003 |
| http://www.gfp.gov.uk | Nil—no redesign since 2006 |
| http://www.ogc.gov.uk | 54,000 |

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days sickness absence were taken by staff in his Department and its agencies in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [305504]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The total days of sick leave taken by the Department and its agencies in the latest 12-month period for which data are available can be found in the following table.

| | *Days of sick leave July 2008 to June 2009* |
|---|---|
| HM Treasury | 3,784 |
| OGC | 672 |
| DMO | 310 |
| Total | 4,766 |

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305216]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** HM Treasury operates and funds the following telephone lines:

| *Prefix* | *Lines operated and funded* | *Local rate alternative available* | *Calls in last 12 months* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0870 | 0 | n/a | n/a |
| 0845 | 1 | [illegible] | 23,250 |
| | 1 | Yes | 38,625 |
| 0800 | 1 | n/a | [1]— |

[1] Available only at disproportionate cost

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the (i) subject and (ii) location of each away day was. [306402]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** No central records are held on Treasury teams' away days and the information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

### Financial Services Authority: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments the Financial Services Authority has made to *(a)* College Public Policy and *(b)* Connect Public Affairs in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each contract under which such payments were made. [305429]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The matter raised in this question is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I have asked the chief executive of the FSA to write to the hon. Member on the issue he raises.

### Government Actuary's Department: Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Government Actuary's Department has spent on hotel accommodation for its officials in each of the last five years. [306037]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government Actuary's Department incurred the following amounts on hotel accommodation in the last five financial years:

*£000*

| | *Total cost incurred* | *Costs recovered from GAD clients* | *Net cost to GAD* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 (to date) | 25 | 13 | 12 |
| 2008-09 | 34 | 27 | 7 |
| 2007-08 | 36 | 27 | 9 |
| 2006-07 | 22 | 16 | 6 |
| 2005-06 | 27 | [1]— | [1]— |

[1] Figures not available

### Government Actuary's Department: Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what redesigns of websites operated by the Government Actuary's Department have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306198]

**Ian Pearson:** Since 27 June 2007 a two-stage redesign of the Government Actuary's Department website has been conducted.

1. To reflect GAD's revised corporate identity, completed in October 2007 at a cost of £9,684.

2. To comply with the AAA accessibility standard, completed in May 2009 at a cost of £9,777.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305670]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All travel and subsistence is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much the Public Works Loan Board has spent on hotel accommodation for its staff in each of the last five years; [305702]

(2) how much the Debt Management Office has spent on hotel accommodation for its staff in each of the last five years. [305709]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The following figures show a combined DMO and PWLB view including cost of accommodation, meals and incidental items. The DMO does not separately record expenditure incurred on hotel accommodation and does not record these items of expenditure separately for the PWLB.

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 6 |
| 2005-06 | 10 |
| 2006-07 | 6 |
| 2007-08 | 19 |
| 2008-09 | 7 |

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter dated 5 November 2009 from the hon. Member for Walsall North transferred to HM Treasury, reference 7/19547/2009. [306902]

**Mr. Timms:** A reply was sent last week.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1672W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, what the average rateable value in each sub-location *(a)* was on the 2005 and *(b)* is on the draft 2010 Rating List. [306549]

**Ian Pearson:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology the Valuation Office Agency uses for valuing electric car charging points for business rates. [305928]

**Ian Pearson:** The Valuation Office Agency has a duty to ensure all relevant non-domestic hereditaments are assessed for rates on rating lists. This helps to maintain fairness in the rating system. Where a car charging point is a relevant hereditament then it will be assessed for rateable value having regard to its annual rental value at the valuation date (which for the current 2005 rating list is 1 April 2003).

### Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Valuation Office Agency's special category code is for *(a)* ports and *(b)* firms within ports; and whether this coding has changed as a result of the changes made to business rates on ports. [305816]

**Ian Pearson:** The Valuation Office Agency's Specialist Category Codes (SCAT) for *(a)* ports are code 433 for statutory docks and harbours (formula), code 434 for statutory docks and harbours (non formula), code 435 statutory docks and harbours (other) and code 089 docks and harbours (non-statutory).

It is not possible to identify *(b)* the firms within ports by a SCAT code as this will vary depending on the use of the property. No changes have been made to SCAT codes as a result of changes made to business rates on ports.

### Northern Rock: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments Northern Rock has made to FD Public Affairs in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305430]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its board at arm's length from the Government on commercial principles. It is a matter for the company's management to release specific business updates or provide any required disclosures in their audited annual report and accounts.

### Origin Marking: Israel

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many consignments of falsely-labelled goods originating from producers in Israeli settlements in *(a)* the West Bank, *(b)* the Golan Heights and *(c)* East Jerusalem were detected by HM Revenue and Customs in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2006-07, (iv) 2007-08 and (v) 2008-09. [304733]

**Mr. Timms:** The following number of consignments on which preferential rates of duty were claimed under the EU-Israel Agreement have been identified as having originated in Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 99 |
| 2005 | 128 |
| 2006 | 127 |
| 2007 | 214 |
| 2008 | 11 |
| 2009 | 18 |

## Public Expenditure

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid to each devolved administration under the Barnett formula in the most recent financial year for which figures are available; and what corresponding funding allocation was made to Government departments in respect of services delivered in *(a)* England only, *(b)* England and Wales, *(c)* England, Wales and Northern Ireland, *(d)* England, Wales and Scotland and *(e)* the UK. [304722]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]:* Changes in the Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) of the devolved Administrations are normally determined by the Barnett formula. The settlements were published in the 2007 comprehensive spending review White Paper (Cm 7227). The latest figures for the DELs of the devolved Administrations are published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) (Cm 7630). Comparative data on spending for the benefit of each country and region of the UK are also published in PESA, including a breakdown of this spending by function.

## Public Sector: Pensions

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the net annual saving to the Exchequer of capping at £50,000 per annum the benefit payable under all currently accruing defined benefit public sector pension schemes not yet in payment which are estimated to provide a benefit of less than £50,000 annually; and what amendments to public sector pension rules would be required to give effect to such a change; [304915]

(2) if he will estimate the net annual saving to the Exchequer of capping at £50,000 per annum the benefit from all future public sector defined benefit pensions funded from the public purse; and what amendments to public sector pension rules would be required to give effect to such a change; [304910]

(3) if he will estimate the net annual saving to the Exchequer of ceasing increases in funding from the public purse to defined benefit public sector pensions not yet in payment which are worth over £50,000 annually; and what amendments to public sector pension rules would be required to give effect to such a change. [304917]

**Mr. Byrne:** The savings from a cap on pensions in payment would take a number of years to accrue as only future pension rights could legally be capped. Data are not centrally available to estimate annual savings to the Exchequer on such future pension rights.

## Revenue and Customs

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the cost of *(a)* developing and *(b)* publicising the new charter for HM Revenue and Customs. [305550]

**Mr. Timms:** The Department has spent £170,000 to develop and £12,000 to publicise the Charter over a two-year period. The cost was met from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) existing budget and covers marketing, research and consultation. This delivered a Charter that stakeholder groups have agreed will be a positive step towards HMRC building better relationships with taxpayers and claimants.

## Revenue and Customs: Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs has spent on hotel accommodation for its officials in each of the last five years. [306016]

**Mr. Timms:** From information available, the total cost of hotel accommodation for HM Revenue and Customs officials in each of the last five years is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| April to October 2009 | 7,000,247 |
| April 2008 to March 2009 | 17,785,927 |
| April 2007 to March 2008 | 18,064,771 |
| April 2006 to March 2007 | 17,664,606 |
| April 2005 to March 2006 | [1] |

[1] Figures unavailable

Spend figures between April 2007 to present day are based on management information provided by HMRC's 'Hotel' contract supplier.

## Revenue and Customs: Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what redesigns of websites operated by HM Revenue and Customs have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306209]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs has not undertaken a redesign of its website. It has however made significant incremental improvements to the site since April 2008—including new content, improved navigation and a new look and feel in key sections of the site. This work is an integral part of its Service Transformation Agreement and commitment to converge content and services on www.direct.gov.uk and www.businesslink.gov.uk by 2011. Costs are projected at a total of £10.7 million over the period 2007-08 to 2010-11.

### Revenue and Customs: Somerset

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans there are to change the opening hours of HM Revenue and Customs Enquiry Centres in Somerset; and what assessment has been made of the likely effect of reduced opening hours at such centres on the elderly. [302256]

**Mr. Timms:** Demand for face to face advice from HMRC Enquiry Centres has fallen heavily in recent years as customers increasingly turn to the telephone and internet for information. As a result HMRC is reviewing the pattern of service provision to better match service availability to customer demand. This includes considering moving to part week opening in some Enquiry Centres.

The first phase of the review includes Enquiry Centres in Frome, Wells and Bridgewater. The impact of these changes is being assessed by engagement with local external customer representative bodies including MPs, local authorities, Help the Aged, the Citizens Advice Bureaux and others. HMRC is also consulting with local staff, managers and trade unions. An Equality Impact Assessment of changes to Enquiry Centre opening hours will be published prior to any changes being made.

HMRC remains committed to providing a face to face service for those customers that need one at or close to each location where they provide one now.

### Royal Mint: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments the Royal Mint has made to Grayling Political Strategy in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305412]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** No payments have been made to Grayling Political Strategy in the last 12 months.

### Stamp Duty Land Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the likely effect on the housing market of the lowering of the threshold for stamp duty. [305930]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The stamp duty holiday was designed to provide Government support for homebuyers. The stimulus it offers relies on it being temporary. The Government expect 240,000 transactions to have benefited from the holiday when it is brought to a close at the end of December.

### Taxation: Banks

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the maximum amount of tax was that each of the banks in which the Government has a stake could save by off-setting previous losses at the latest date for which figures are available; [305801]

(2) what the losses for tax purposes of each of the banks in which the Government have a stake were at the latest date for which figures are available. [305802]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]*: Historical aggregate figures for the value of deductions against Corporation Tax paid by the financial sector are published in table 11.2, on the HMRC website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_2.pdf

However, it is not possible to publish HMRC estimates of the loss position of individual banks due to rules protecting taxpayer confidentiality. Published 2008 accounts for both RBS and Lloyds banking group are available on their respective websites:

http://www.rbs.com/microsites/gra2008/index.htm

http://www.lloydsbankinggroup-annualreport.com/2008/

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the tax losses carried forward by banks from the *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 financial year. [305851]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 275W.

### Taxation: Business

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* small and medium-sized and *(b)* other enterprises which made Time to Pay arrangements with HM Revenue and Customs to defer tax through the Business Payment Support Service have (i) not met their tax liabilities when they became due and (ii) extended their Time to Pay arrangement period to date; and if he will make a statement. [304412]

**Mr. Timms:** Over 90 per cent. of the value of tax that has become due under Time to Pay arrangements agreed through the Business Payment Support Service launched in November 2008 is being paid in line with agreed instalments. HMRC does not collect information on repayment of arrangements broken down by size of business.

Where businesses are struggling to meet their payments they are able to renegotiate an existing arrangement provided that HMRC believe the business is likely to be able to pay the tax due if given more time. All requests continue to be assessed on the same basis and there has been no change in HMRC's policy on offering Time to Pay in such circumstances.

Information about the number of businesses requesting extensions of their Time to Pay arrangements could currently be provided only at disproportionate cost, but it is intended to compile data in due course.

### Taxation: Health Professions

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 655W, on health professions: pay, for what reasons *(a)* pharmacy contractors are and *(b)* appliance contractors are not zero-rated for value added tax. [306061]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* VAT is a broad-based tax on consumer expenditure and reliefs from it have always been strictly limited. When the UK joined the European Community (EC) in 1973, we signed up to the agreements which govern the application of VAT throughout the EC. Under these and successive agreements the UK is allowed to keep zero rates of VAT on certain items—many of which had been exempt from the purchase tax which preceded VAT—including drugs and medicines supplied by a pharmacist against a prescription. Most other goods and services became taxable at the standard rate and have remained taxable ever since. This includes most goods supplied by appliance contractors.

### Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the repeal of the furnished holiday lettings rules on farmers who have diversified into tourism and related businesses. [306005]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* In 2007-08 approximately 60,000 individuals declared income from Furnished Holiday Lettings to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), approximately 2,500 of whom also declared income from farming. After the Furnished Holiday Lettings rules are withdrawn, these businesses will still be able to claim various tax reliefs including loss relief, a deduction for business expenses, and an allowance for capital expenditure. Therefore the impact on continuing, viable businesses is expected to be limited.

HMRC published an impact assessment on 9 December 2009, available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/furnished-holiday-ia-3760.pdf

### Valuation

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report,* column 521W, on business improvement districts, whether the Valuation Office Agency has increased the rateable values of properties in the recent 2010 revaluation consequent on improved activity undertaken by business improvement district. [306557]

**Ian Pearson:** The aim of a rating valuation is to arrive at the rental value of the premises at the standard valuation date. Activity undertaken by business improvement districts will result in changes to the rating valuation of a property only if and when it materially affects the rental value of that property.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Grandparents

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for which tax credit schemes administered by his Department a retired grandparent is eligible in respect of a grandchild who is being fostered by that grandparent. [306735]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs administer child tax credit (CTC), child benefit and guardian's allowance. A grandparent or any other person who is responsible for the care of a child or qualifying young person is eligible to claim CTC, child benefit, and, in some circumstances, guardian's allowance for that child or qualifying young person providing the qualifying criteria are met.

However, where the child is placed in the care of the grandparent under a fostering arrangement, eligibility will be dependent on the terms of that arrangement. When a local authority pays for the child's accommodation and maintenance child benefit, CTC and guardian's allowance are not paid for the foster child in order to avoid duplicate provision. However, if exceptionally, the local authority does not do this then the foster parents may be eligible for child benefit, CTC and in some cases guardian's allowance for the foster child.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Lancashire

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken to resolve disputed tax credit cases involving custody of children was in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire in each of the last three years. [306769]

**Mr. Timms:** This information is not available. HM Revenue and Customs endeavours to award all new claims as quickly as possible but delays can arise where enquiries have to be made and the conclusions are disputed.

### Working Tax Credit

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the take-up rate of working tax credit is among *(a)* those also claiming child tax credit and *(b)* those not claiming child tax credit; and what assessment he has made of the effect upon such take-up rates of implementation of the relevant measures announced in Budget 2009. [305741]

**Mr. Timms:** Estimates of working tax credit take-up rates for 2006-07, which are the latest available, are provided in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Take-up rates 2006-07". This publication is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up2006-07.pdf

The Government recognise that more can be done for people without children, and has set an ambitious target to raise take-up of working tax credit among this group by 100,000 by April 2011. HMRC are making good progress by using a range of measures to reach eligible customers, such as writing to 10,000 households identified through PAYE records; partnership marketing with large employers and others, national and local marketing activity via radio and newspaper advertising, and by working jointly with the Department for Work and Pensions and local authorities as part of the In and Out of Work project.

Separate estimates of the impact of these activities on take-up rates are not available. However, HMRC estimate that taken together these will enable them to meet the target in April 2011.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the eligibility rules on hours and incomes are for each type of working tax credit; and when these rules were last reviewed. [305807]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs publish detailed information and guidance on its website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/index.htm

and in leaflet WTC2 - Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit - A Guide available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/wtc2.pdf

As I explained to my hon. Friend in the answer I gave him on 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 897-98W, all aspects of tax credits are kept under review, with any decisions made as part of the Budget process.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Christmas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many Christmas trees were purchased by the Law Officers' Departments in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305642]

**The Solicitor-General:** Where available, details on the purchases and polices of each Law Officers' Department are outlined as follows. In general where Christmas trees have been purchased attempts have been made to source and dispose of them in a sustainable way, as well as to keep costs to a minimum.

The Attorney-General's Office has purchased four Christmas trees during the last five years at a total cost of £409.60. This year due to cost cutting measures no tree has been purchased.

All the trees were purchased from suppliers who only buy trees from accredited sustainable sources. All the trees were recycled, ending up as wood chips for bridle paths or fertiliser. The exact breakdown of costs on a yearly basis is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 112.00 |
| 2006-07 | 105.85 |
| 2007-08 | 117.90 |
| 2008-09 | 74.85 |

The Serious Fraud Office has purchased the following Christmas trees over the last five years:

| | Number | £ (inc. VAT) |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 1 Christmas tree purchased from "Christmas Tree Land" | 56.99 |
| 2006 | 1 Christmas tree purchased from "Christmas Tree Land" | 64.98 |
| 2007 | 1 Christmas tree purchased from "Christmas Tree Land" | [1]70.00 |
| 2008 | 1 artificial tree hire service from "Phs Greenleaf" | 207.82 |
| 2009 | 1 'Real' tree hire service from "Phs Greenleaf" | 408.82 |

[1] Estimated figure

From 2005 to 2007 the Christmas trees purchased from "Christmas Tree Land" were grown on plantations and harvested like any other sustainable crop. The trees were disposed of via Camden Council's Christmas tree collection service. In 2008 the artificial tree was collected by Phs Greenleaf at the end of the hire period for reuse. In 2009 the 'Real' Tree from Phs Greenleaf was from a sustainable tree farm and will be collected by Phs, Gunnersbury branch, who dispose of trees via the local council who then use the chippings on pathways and nature trails throughout the borough.

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) purchases a maximum of one tree per annum which is situated in its reception area. HMCPSI does not record such costs separately from other general accommodation costs and is therefore unable to provide information in respect of past years. However, the amount spent in December 2009 was £39 and this is believed to be the highest amount.

Records are not kept on from where the trees were sourced, what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees and by what process the trees were disposed. Where possible and practicable all waste is recycled usually through its local authority.

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office has made no purchases of "real" Christmas trees during each of the last five years. It did however purchase three artificial Christmas trees in November 2005, at a total cost of £300, all of which are still in use.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not keep central records of the number, cost, provenance or disposal arrangements in relation to Christmas trees and could provide this information only at a disproportionate cost.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department and the National Fraud Authority have not purchased any Christmas trees during the last five years.

### Convictions

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many and what proportion of cases which went to a contested trial resulted in convictions in each of the last five years. [305452]

**The Solicitor-General:** The following table shows the number of defendants whose case resulted in conviction or in an unsuccessful outcome after a contested hearing in each of the last five years.

*Outcome of contested hearings*

*Magistrates court*

| | Convicted after trial | Percentage | Dismissed | Percentage | Total contests |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05[1] | 42,432 | 67.3 | 20,589 | 32.7 | 63,021 |
| 2005-06 | 58,076 | 64.5 | 31,974 | 35.5 | 90,050 |
| 2006-07 | 34,979 | 63.5 | 20,091 | 36.5 | 55,070 |
| 2007-08 | 36,899 | 64.1 | 20,658 | 35.9 | 57,557 |
| 2008-09 | 33,390 | 62.1 | 20,380 | 37.9 | 53,770 |

|  | Crown Court |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | *Convicted after trial* | *Percentage* | *Acquitted* | *Percentage* | *Total contests* |
| 2004-05[1] | 10,059 | 57.1 | 7,544 | 42.9 | 17,603 |
| 2005-06 | 8,664 | 55.0 | 7,096 | 45.0 | 15,760 |
| 2006-07 | 8,200 | 53.9 | 7,000 | 46.1 | 15,200 |
| 2007-08 | 7,705 | 54.4 | 6,459 | 45.6 | 14,164 |
| 2008-09 | 7,891 | 54.1 | 6,682 | 45.9 | 14,573 |

[1] Full implementation of the electronic Compass Case Management System in 2004 led to appreciable improvements in the quality and consistency of the data. Figures for 2004-05 are not directly comparable with the improved information recorded subsequently.

## Crown Prosecution Service

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how much has been allocated in the Crown Prosecution Service budgets for *(a)* London and *(b)* each of its 42 regional offices for the employment of agency staff in each of the last three years. [305414]

**The Solicitor-General:** The following table indicates the budgets allocated for the employment of agency staff by the Crown Prosecution Service for London and each of its 42 operational areas in each of the last three years.

| *Area* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | £<br>*2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 34,000 | 57,600 | 99,436 |
| Bedfordshire | — | — | — |
| Cambridgeshire | — | 5,720 | — |
| Cheshire | 3,400 | 3,633 | — |
| Cleveland | — | — | 7,028 |
| Cumbria | — | 15,000 | 210 |
| Derbyshire | 97,101 | 78,937 | 69,307 |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | 18,320 | 4,800 |
| Dorset | — | — | — |
| Durham | 41,574 | 54,743 | — |
| Dyfed Powys | 9,203 | 7,000 | 1,500 |
| Essex | 100,500 | 177,905 | 245,651 |
| Gloucestershire | 2,500 | — | 3,000 |
| Greater Manchester | 1,451 | 29,474 | 37,900 |
| Gwent | 7,127 | 5,500 | — |
| Hampshire | — | — | — |
| Hertfordshire | 20,000 | — | — |
| Humberside | 61,921 | 19,813 | 9,881 |
| Kent | 53,883 | 93,312 | 143,062 |
| Lancashire | 22,992 | 24,193 | 40,750 |
| Leicestershire | — | 8,000 | — |
| Lincolnshire | 10,700 | 11,000 | — |
| Merseyside | — | — | — |
| Metropolitan and City | — | 39,501 | — |
| Norfolk | 8,000 | 10,000 | — |
| Northamptonshire | 1,000 | 20,000 | 23,000 |
| Northumbria | — | — | — |
| North Wales | 31,471 | 8,150 | 12,450 |
| North Yorkshire | 10,248 | 2,581 | — |
| Nottinghamshire | — | — | — |
| South Wales | 12,000 | 7,605 | — |
| South Yorkshire | — | 10,911 | 22,400 |
| Staffordshire | — | — | — |
| Suffolk | — | 111,529 | 15,572 |
| Surrey | — | 1,500 | 9,000 |
| Sussex | 5,000 | — | 10,000 |
| Thames Valley | 2,200 | 27,000 | 99,450 |
| Warwickshire | 8,000 | 8,000 | — |
| West Mercia | 62,650 | — | — |
| West Midlands | — | — | — |
| West Yorkshire | 212,266 | 231,536 | 244,400 |
| Wiltshire | — | 7,200 | 1,900 |
| CPS Direct | 26,000 | 5,100 | 21,000 |
| Organised Crime Division | 240,505 | — | — |

| *Area* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | £<br>*2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Special Crime Division | — | — | — |
| Counter Terrorism Division | — | — | — |
| Headquarters | 1,274,068 | 676,529 | 694,526 |
| Business Centres | 240,500 | 161,000 | 195,205 |
| Total | 3,872,318 | 2,603,426 | 2,704,735 |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General what professional qualifications or skills are required of a Crown Prosecution Service area business manager. [305439]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown prosecution Service (CPS) requires its Area Business Managers (ABMs) to meet the leadership, core and professional skills requirements specified by the Professional Skills for Government (PSG) frameworks. We do not currently require further formal professional qualifications from staff to fill these roles. All ABMs are encouraged to undertake external accredited learning, such as Diplomas from the Institute of Leadership and Management. They are also required to maintain their finance, procurement, risk and performance management skills throughout the year, through a programme of learning and development.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Crown Prosecution Service *(a)* spent and *(b)* allocated for the purposes of equality and diversity services in each of the last five years. [305440]

**The Solicitor-General:** The following table shows how much the Crown Prosecution Service has *(a)* spent and *(b)* allocated for the purposes of equality and diversity services in each of the last five years.

|  | *Total E and D budget allocated* | *£ million*<br>*Total E and D expenditure* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1.8 | 1.7 |
| 2005-06 | 2.2 | 2.0 |
| 2006-07 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| 2007-08 | 2.4 | 2.4 |
| 2008-09 | 2.4 | 2.4 |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Crown Prosecution Service spent on transporting to and from court at all stages prior to the conclusion of a trial defendants who had been arrested under bench warrants not backed for bail in each of the last five years. [305441]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has no role in the transportation of those accused of offences at any stage of legal proceedings.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many diversity and equality managers have been employed by the Crown Prosecution Service in *(a)* London and *(b)* each of its 42 regional offices in each of the last five years; and at what cost such managers were employed in each such year. [305442]

**The Solicitor-General:** From 2004 to 2007 the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) employed 10 Equality and Diversity Managers, one representing each of the 10 regional Service Centre groups, which included London. From 2007 to date, there have been two Equality and Diversity managers employed in London and 14 in the remaining parts of England and Wales, aligned to the CPS Group structure. The costs for employing such managers in 2004-05 were £319,230, in 2005-06 £320,770, in 2006-07 £321,660, in 2007-08 £458,724 and in 2008-09 £601,952.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many disciplinary rulings have been made against Crown Prosecution Service staff in *(a)* London and *(b)* each of its 42 regional offices in each of the last five years. [305446]

**The Solicitor-General:** The number of Crown Prosecution Service staff dismissed for cause in each of the last five years is detailed in the following table. The CPS has not made any member of staff redundant over this period.

*Number of Crown Prosecution Service staff dismissed for cause, 9 December 2009*

|  | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* | *2005-06* | *2004-05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Casework | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | [illegible] |
| Headquarters | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | 3 |
| CPS London | 6 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| CPS Avon and Somerset | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| CPS Bedfordshire | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| CPS Cambridgeshire | — | — | — | — | — |
| CPS CPSD | — | — | — | — | — |
| CPS Cheshire | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| CPS Cleveland | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| CPS Cumbria | — | — | — | — | — |
| CPS Derbyshire | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 |
| CPS Devon & Cornwall | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| CPS Dorset | 1 | — | — | — | — |

*Number of Crown Prosecution Service staff dismissed for cause, 9 December 2009*

| | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CPS Durham | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| CPS Dyfed Powys | — | — | — | — | — |
| CPS Essex | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| CPS Gloucestershire | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| CPS Greater Manchester | 2 | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| CPS Gwent | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| CPS Hampshire | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| CPS Hertfordshire | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| CPS Humberside | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| CPS Kent | — | — | — | — | — |
| CPS Lancashire | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| CPS Leicestershire | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 |
| CPS Lincolnshire | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| CPS Merseyside | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| CPS Norfolk | 1 | 2 | — | — | 1 |
| CPS North Wales | — | — | — | — | — |
| CPS North Yorkshire | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| CPS Northamptonshire | 3 | 1 | — | — | — |
| CPS Northumbria | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| CPS Nottinghamshire | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| CPS South Wales | — | — | — | 1 | 3 |
| CPS South Yorkshire | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| CPS Staffordshire | — | — | — | — | — |
| CPS Suffolk | — | — | — | — | — |
| CPS Surrey | — | — | — | — | — |
| CPS Sussex | — | — | 1 | 2 | — |
| CPS Thames Valley | 1 | 3 | — | — | — |
| CPS Warwickshire | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| CPS West Mercia | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| CPS West Midlands | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| CPS West Yorkshire | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| CPS Wiltshire | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total CPS | 30 | 17 | 15 | 14 | 22 |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many Crown Prosecution Service staff have been *(a)* dismissed for cause and *(b)* made redundant in (i) London and (ii) each of its 42 regional offices in each of the last five years. [305447]

**The Solicitor-General:** Over the last five years, there have been 256 disciplinary rulings made against Crown Prosecution Service staff. A breakdown of disciplinary rulings for this period is provided in the following table:

*Disciplinary penalties by area*

| | | | | | Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Area* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| London | 4 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 7 |
| Casework Directorate | — | — | — | — | — |
| Avon and Somerset | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Bedfordshire | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Cambridgeshire | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cheshire | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Cleveland | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Cumbria | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Derbyshire | | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Dorset | — | — | — | — | — |
| Durham | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 |
| Dyfed-Powys | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Essex | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Gloucestershire | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Gwent | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| HQ | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Hampshire and IOW | 1 | — | — | — | 4 |
| Hertfordshire | — | 1 | — | 2 | 2 |

*Disciplinary penalties by area*

| Area | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | Number 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Humberside | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 |
| Kent | 1 | — | — | — | |
| Lancashire | 1 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Leicestershire | 1 | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| Lincolnshire | — | — | — | — | — |
| Merseyside | 1 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Norfolk | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Northamptonshire | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| North Wales | — | — | — | — | — |
| North Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Northumbria | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Nottinghamshire | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| South Yorkshire | 1 | 6 | 2 | — | 3 |
| South Wales | — | 1 | 3 | 1 | — |
| Staffordshire | — | — | 2 | 1 | — |
| Suffolk | — | 1 | — | — | 7 |
| Surrey | — | — | 3 | — | — |
| Sussex | — | — | — | — | — |
| Thames Valley | — | 1 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Warwickshire | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Wiltshire | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Mercia | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| West Midlands | 1 | 8 | 4 | 11 | 3 |
| West Yorkshire | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| CPS Direct | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Total | 20 | 64 | 54 | 56 | 62 |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many Crown Prosecution Service staff in *(a)* London and *(b)* each of its 42 regional offices took more than 10 days of sick leave in each of the last five years. [305448]

**The Solicitor-General:** Figures for the number of staff who have taken more than 10 days' sick leave in the five years since April 2004 are detailed in the following table.

*Number of staff in each CPS area with more than 10 days sickness absence in the respective years. 8 December 2009*

| | April-March | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Area | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 |
| HQ | 79 | 91 | 89 | 75 | 66 |
| Casework | 24 | 24 | 33 | 39 | 38 |
| CPS Direct | 23 | 11 | 14 | 16 | 10 |
| CPS Avon and Somerset | 29 | 28 | 26 | 36 | 39 |
| CPS Bedfordshire | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 13 |
| CPS Cambridgeshire | 14 | 10 | 16 | 6 | 10 |
| CPS Cheshire | 21 | 18 | 14 | 21 | 25 |
| CPS Cleveland | 20 | 19 | 30 | 24 | 21 |
| CPS Cumbria | 11 | 28 | 31 | 22 | 18 |
| CPS Derbyshire | 31 | 33 | 33 | 31 | 40 |
| CPS Devon and Cornwall | 37 | 36 | 39 | 38 | 31 |
| CPS Dorset | 14 | 15 | 13 | 8 | 14 |
| CPS Durham | 17 | 17 | 11 | 14 | 21 |
| CPS Dyfed/Powys | 2 | 13 | 25 | 14 | 14 |
| CPS Essex | 29 | 34 | 27 | 42 | 53 |
| CPS Gloucestershire | 5 | 10 | 8 | 14 | 15 |
| CPS Greater Manchester | 81 | 82 | 94 | 79 | 81 |
| CPS Gwent | 13 | 17 | 21 | 10 | 17 |
| CPS Hampshire | 34 | 35 | 41 | 37 | 46 |
| CPS Hertfordshire | 22 | 17 | 14 | 20 | 18 |
| CPS Humberside | 15 | 9 | 12 | 19 | 21 |
| CPS Kent | 33 | 33 | 33 | 30 | 26 |
| CPS Lancashire | 45 | 55 | 56 | 45 | 43 |
| CPS Leicestershire | 23 | 25 | 26 | 23 | 21 |
| CPS Lincolnshire | 13 | 22 | 17 | 16 | 19 |
| CPS London | 244 | 290 | 286 | 316 | 283 |
| CPS Merseyside | 57 | 76 | 70 | 80 | 76 |

*Number of staff in each CPS area with more than 10 days sickness absence in the respective years. 8 December 2009*

| Area | April-March | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 |
| CPS Norfolk | 6 | 14 | 6 | 16 | 19 |
| CPS North Wales | 6 | 11 | 18 | 9 | 8 |
| CPS North Yorkshire | 8 | 12 | 19 | 13 | 14 |
| CPS Northamptonshire | 7 | 6 | 10 | 17 | 11 |
| CPS Northumbria | 55 | 48 | 41 | 59 | 54 |
| CPS Nottinghamshire | 32 | 22 | 27 | 45 | 47 |
| CPS South Wales | 25 | 47 | 41 | 51 | 51 |
| CPS South Yorkshire | 34 | 35 | 35 | 25 | 32 |
| CPS Staffordshire | 17 | 36 | 27 | 23 | 17 |
| CPS Suffolk | 12 | 10 | 14 | 10 | 8 |
| CPS Surrey | 9 | 11 | 25 | 20 | 6 |
| CPS Sussex | 28 | 22 | 22 | 20 | 29 |
| CPS Thames Valley | 18 | 33 | 35 | 34 | 32 |
| CPS Warwickshire | 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| CPS West Mercia | 29 | 35 | 40 | 35 | 41 |
| CPS West Midlands | 104 | 85 | 109 | 113 | 91 |
| CPS West Yorkshire | 53 | 44 | 61 | 49 | 73 |
| CPS Wiltshire | 18 | 13 | 8 | 11 | 5 |
| Grand total | 1,403 | 1,535 | 1,628 | 1,637 | 1,622 |

Notes:
1. Total number of staff who had more than 10 working days lost to absence in the rolling year
2. Data extracted from epayfact (CPS Payroll System)

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many senior Crown Prosecution Service staff at grades above level D are High Court advocates; and at how many court sessions such staff advocated in court in each of the last five years. [305449]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service currently employs 99 staff above level D who are higher court advocates. During the 2008-09 financial year, higher court advocates at level E or above conducted prosecutions at 1,425 sessions in the Crown court or higher courts. The following table shows the data for the last five completed years. For the years since 2007-08, these data include principal crown advocates, whose main function is the preparation and presentation of serious and complex cases at the crown court, as well as other senior lawyers in the CPS whose main function is in managing the operation of the prosecution service in London and across each of the 42 CPS areas. These staff are graded as senior civil servants, chief crown prosecutors, and level E unit heads.

*Higher court advocates, Crown court attendances by grade*

| Grade | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of sessions | Number of HCAs | Number of sessions | Number of HCAs | Number of sessions | Number of HCAs | Number of sessions | Number of HCAs | Number of sessions | Number of HCAs |
| Senior Civil Servants | 2 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Chief Crown Prosecutors | 59 | 16 | 74 | 19 | 112 | 19 | 64 | 22 | 49 | 23 |
| Level E | 840 | 72 | 1,113 | 70 | 1-204 | 72 | 1,834 | 71 | 1,334 | 67 |
| Principal Crown Advocate | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | 40 | 6 |
| Total | 901 | 89 | 1,193 | 90 | 1,327 | 92 | 1,901 | 94 | 1,425 | 99 |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many and what proportion of staff employed by the Crown Prosecution Service in *(a)* London and *(b)* each of its 42 regional offices are designated as frontline staff. [305450]

**The Solicitor-General:** The CPS currently employs a total of 8,885 staff. 8,231 of these, or 93 per cent., are designated as frontline staff, as they carry out or support the prosecution process. The following table shows the number of staff in each of the CPS areas, and the proportion of frontline staff.

| Area | Total staff | Number of frontline staff | Percentage of frontline staff |
|---|---|---|---|
| Casework | 356 | 356 | 100 |
| Headquarters | 654 | 0 | 0 |
| CPS London | 1,369 | 1,369 | 100 |
| CPS Avon and Somerset | 182 | 182 | 100 |

| *Area* | *Total staff* | *Number of frontline staff* | *Percentage of frontline staff* |
|---|---|---|---|
| CPS Bedfordshire | 73 | 73 | 100 |
| CPS Cambridgeshire | 75 | 75 | 100 |
| CPS CPSD | 163 | 163 | 100 |
| CPS Cheshire | 112 | 112 | 100 |
| CPS Cleveland | 103 | 103 | 100 |
| CPS Cumbria | 83 | 83 | 100 |
| CPS Derbyshire | 120 | 120 | 100 |
| CPS Devon and Cornwall | 128 | 128 | 100 |
| CPS Dorset | 77 | 77 | 100 |
| CPS Durham | 97 | 97 | 100 |
| CPS Dyfed Powys | 61 | 61 | 100 |
| CPS Essex | 193 | 193 | 100 |
| CPS Gloucestershire | 56 | 56 | 100 |
| CPS Greater Manchester | 473 | 473 | 100 |
| CPS Gwent | 83 | 83 | 100 |
| CPS Hampshire | 247 | 247 | 100 |
| CPS Hertfordshire | 117 | 117 | 100 |
| CPS Humberside | 120 | 120 | 100 |
| CPS Kent | 181 | 181 | 100 |
| CPS Lancashire | 261 | 261 | 100 |
| CPS Leicestershire | 123 | 123 | 100 |
| CPS Lincolnshire | 71 | 71 | 100 |
| CPS Merseyside | 256 | 256 | 100 |
| CPS Norfolk | 92 | 92 | 100 |
| CPS North Wales | 83 | 83 | 100 |
| CPS North Yorkshire | 87 | 87 | 100 |
| CPS Northamptonshire | 78 | 78 | 100 |
| CPS Northumbria | 274 | 274 | 100 |
| CPS Nottinghamshire | 180 | 180 | 100 |
| CPS South Wales | 243 | 243 | 100 |
| CPS South Yorkshire | 196 | 196 | 100 |
| CPS Staffordshire | 146 | 146 | 100 |
| CPS Suffolk | 70 | 70 | 100 |
| CPS Surrey | 85 | 85 | 100 |
| CPS Sussex | 171 | 171 | 100 |
| CPS Thames Valley | 248 | 248 | 100 |
| CPS Warwickshire | 43 | 43 | 100 |
| CPS West Mercia | 151 | 151 | 100 |
| CPS West Midlands | 512 | 512 | 100 |
| CPS West Yorkshire | 330 | 330 | 100 |
| CPS Wiltshire | 62 | 62 | 100 |
| Total CPS | 8,885 | 8,231 | 93 |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* solicitors, *(b)* barristers and *(c)* non-legal staff are employed by the Crown Prosecution Service in (i) London and (ii) each of its 42 regional offices. [305451]

**The Solicitor-General:** The numbers of *(a)* solicitors, *(b)* barristers and *(c)* non-legal staff for each of the CPS areas are detailed in the following table.

*Number of solicitors, barristers and non-legal staff in the Crown Prosecution Service—9 December 2009*

| | *Barristers* | *Solicitors* | *Associate prosecutors* | *Non-legal* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Casework | 69 | 92 | 0 | 193 | 354 |
| HQ | 21 | 34 | 0 | 596 | 651 |
| CPS Direct | 39 | 108 | 0 | 15 | 162 |
| CPS Avon and Somerset | 28 | 51 | 11 | 93 | 183 |
| CPS Bedfordshire | 6 | 23 | 6 | 38 | 73 |
| CPS Cambridgeshire | 8 | 20 | 5 | 41 | 74 |
| CPS Cheshire | 7 | 39 | 8 | 57 | 111 |
| CPS Cleveland | 7 | 28 | 6 | 61 | 102 |
| CPS Cumbria | 5 | 25 | 5 | 47 | 82 |
| CPS Derbyshire | 7 | 35 | 6 | 72 | 120 |
| CPS Devon and Cornwall | 14 | 35 | 8 | 67 | 124 |
| CPS Dorset | 8 | 23 | 7 | 39 | 77 |
| CPS Durham | 1 | 34 | 6 | 56 | 97 |

*Number of solicitors, barristers and non-legal staff in the Crown Prosecution Service—9 December 2009*

| | *Barristers* | *Solicitors* | *Associate prosecutors* | *Non-legal* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CPS Dyfed Powys | 2 | 20 | 3 | 38 | 63 |
| CPS Essex | 23 | 44 | 11 | 112 | 190 |
| CPS Gloucestershire | 6 | 16 | 3 | 31 | 56 |
| CPS Greater Manchester | 33 | 148 | 32 | 262 | 475 |
| CPS Gwent | 5 | 25 | 4 | 47 | 81 |
| CPS Hampshire | 29 | 68 | 14 | 134 | 245 |
| CPS Hertfordshire | 24 | 26 | 7 | 61 | 118 |
| CPS Humberside | 12 | 32 | 9 | 68 | 121 |
| CPS Kent | 24 | 42 | 10 | 105 | 181 |
| CPS Lancashire | 17 | 79 | 11 | 154 | 261 |
| CPS Leicestershire | 12 | 34 | 9 | 67 | 122 |
| CPS Lincolnshire | 7 | 20 | 4 | 40 | 71 |
| CPS London | 188 | 283 | 70 | 814 | 1,355 |
| CPS Merseyside | 13 | 79 | 14 | 150 | 256 |
| CPS Norfolk | 11 | 21 | 7 | 53 | 92 |
| CPS North Wales | 6 | 26 | 6 | 45 | 83 |
| CPS North Yorkshire | 6 | 26 | 7 | 48 | 87 |
| CPS Northamptonshire | 5 | 21 | 6 | 46 | 78 |
| CPS Northumbria | 9 | 90 | 13 | 162 | 274 |
| CPS Nottinghamshire | 11 | 52 | 13 | 105 | 181 |
| CPS South Wales | 18 | 74 | 14 | 138 | 244 |
| CPS South Yorkshire | 8 | 60 | 11 | 118 | 197 |
| CPS Staffordshire | 8 | 53 | 10 | 76 | 147 |
| CPS Suffolk | 7 | 19 | 6 | 39 | 71 |
| CPS Surrey | 14 | 25 | 5 | 42 | 86 |
| CPS Sussex | 21 | 55 | 11 | 83 | 170 |
| CPS Thames Valley | 26 | 62 | 15 | 142 | 245 |
| CPS Warwickshire | 4 | 14 | 3 | 22 | 43 |
| CPS West Mercia | 10 | 43 | 14 | 82 | 149 |
| CPS West Midlands | 38 | 158 | 27 | 283 | 506 |
| CPS West Yorkshire | 17 | 98 | 24 | 192 | 331 |
| CPS Wiltshire | 9 | 17 | 5 | 31 | 62 |
| Total CPS | 843 | 2,377 | 466 | 5,165 | 8,851 |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General in how many cases prosecuted in each of the last five years the Crown Prosecution Service opposed bail; and in how many such cases in respect of which legal proceedings have been completed bail was not granted. [305455]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not maintain central records relating to applications for bail.

To provide this information would involve checking paper records across the CPS and would incur disproportionate costs.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many consultations the Crown Prosecution Service has initiated in each of the last five years; what the cost was of each such consultation; how many external consultants were contracted to provide services in respect of each such consultation; and what changes to prosecution policy were made as a consequence of each such consultation. [305456]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service's answer is provided in the following table:

| *Year of consultation exercise* | *Publication that was the subject of consultation* | *Whether external consultants were used* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | Prosecuting cases of Domestic Violence | No |
| | Code for Crown Prosecutors | No |
| 2005 | Children and Young People | No |
| | Race Equality Scheme | Yes, external consultants used to conduct a consultation workshop. |
| 2006 | Prosecuting cases of Bad Driving | Yes, external consultants used to facilitate two focus groups and prepare reports based on the discussions. |
| | Single Equality Scheme | Yes, external consultants used to conduct a consultation workshop. |
| | Prosecuting cases involving the Intentional or Reckless Sexual Transmission of Infection | Yes, external consultants used to facilitate two focus groups and prepare reports based on the discussions. |

| *Year of consultation exercise* | *Publication that was the subject of consultation* | *Whether external consultants were used* |
|---|---|---|
| | Disability Hate Crime | Yes, external consultants used to facilitate a focus group and prepare a report based on the discussions |
| 2007 | Racist and Religious Hate Crime | No |
| | Crimes Against Older People | Yes, external consultants used to facilitate two focus groups and prepare reports based on the discussions |
| | Prosecuting cases of Homophobic and Transphobic Hate Crime | No |
| | Violence Against Women Strategy | No |
| 2008 | Prosecuting cases of Domestic Violence | Yes, external consultants used to conduct a consultation workshop |
| | Prosecuting cases of Rape | No |
| | Supporting Victims and Witnesses with Mental Health issues | Yes, external consultants used to facilitate two focus groups and prepare reports based on the discussions. (Same exercise for both publications.)[1] |
| | Supporting Victims and Witnesses with Learning Disabilities | |
| 2009 | Code for Crown Prosecutors (Note: this has been the subject of two separate consultations in 2009. The Director of Public Prosecutions considered that a number of issues had arisen that necessitated further consultation). | No |
| | Public Prosecution Service: Setting the Standard | No |
| | Assisted Suicide | No |
| | Core Quality Standards | No |

[1] Represents a brace

It is not possible to provide the discrete costs of the consultation exercise for each publication without incurring disproportionate costs.

The CPS has been able to identify which consultation exercises have involved the use of external consultants, although it has not been possible to provide the number of external consultants instructed without incurring disproportionate costs. Where external consultants have been involved only a single consultancy firm will have been contracted.

It is likely that there will have been changes made to each of the publications set out in the table following the end of the respective consultations, as the views and responses received in each of the consultation exercises were the subject of careful consideration, and the CPS will have incorporated suggested changes where they improved the publication. However, the CPS has not been able to identify the discrete changes made to each publication following consultation, as to provide this information for each publication would involve checking stored paper records across the CPS and again incur disproportionate costs.

It should also be noted that, as of 9 December 2009, the consultations on Assisted Suicide, Core Quality Standards, and the Code for Crown Prosecutors have not yet concluded, and no decisions have yet been made as to whether and how the publications should be revised in light of the responses received.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many complaints of bullying, harassment or discrimination on grounds of *(a)* sexual orientation, *(b)* race, *(c)* disability and *(d)* gender were made against Crown Prosecution Service staff in (i) London and (ii) each of the 42 regional offices in each of the last five years; and how many such complaints are unresolved. [305457]

**The Solicitor-General:** Until 9 December 2009, there have been a total of 28 internal complaints relating to bullying, harassment or discrimination. Fourteen of these complaints are currently ongoing. None of these complaints relate to *(a)* sexual orientation; nine relate to *(b)* race; six relate to *(c)* disability and two relate to *(d)* gender. 11 of these complaints relate to bullying and harassment but were not categorised under the headings listed in *(a)* to *(d)*. 12 internal complaints were raised in London—they included five race complaints, one disability complaint and six relating to bullying, harassment and discrimination. The remaining 16 complaints were raised in the CPS's areas outside London. A breakdown is provided in Table 1.

In 2008, there were a total of 36 internal complaints made relating to bullying, harassment or discrimination. Seven of these complaints are currently ongoing. None of the complaints relate to *(a)* sexual orientation; six relate to *(b)* race; six to *(c)* disability; and four relate to *(d)* gender. The remaining 20 internal complaints relate to bullying and harassment but were not categorised under the headings *(a)* to *(d)*. From the 36 internal complaints, 12 were raised in London (they included th[illegible] race complaints and nine complaints relating to [illegible] harassment and discrimination). The remaining 2[illegible]sed in the CPS's areas outside London. A breakdown is provided at Table 2.

Prior to 2008, the CPS only held central records on the number of complaints made under the generic heading of bullying, harassment or discrimination. In 2005 there were 36 complaints, 15 of which were raised in CPS London; in 2006 there were 28 complaints with 15 being raised in London; and in 2007, there were 26 complaints, three of which were raised in CPS London. The following tables provide a further breakdown of the areas.

*Table 1: 2009*

| *Area* | *Bullying harassment discrimination* | *(a) Sexual orientation* | *(b) Race* | *(c) Disability* | *(d) Gender* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| London | [1]6 | — | [2]5 | [3]1 | — |
| HQ Casework Directorate | — | — | — | [3]1 | — |
| Cleveland | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Durham | — | — | — | [3]1 | — |
| Essex | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Humberside | [2]1 | — | — | — | — |
| Lancashire | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Nottinghamshire | — | — | [3]1 | — | — |
| Surrey | [3]1 | — | — | — | — |
| Thames Valley | — | — | [3]1 | [3]1 | 2 |
| West Mercia | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| West Midlands | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| West Yorkshire | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Total | 11 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 2 |

[1] Four ongoing
[2] Two ongoing
[3] Ongoing

*Table 2: 2008*

| *Area* | *Bullying harassment discrimination* | *(a) Sexual orientation* | *(b) Race* | *(c) Disability* | *(d) Gender* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| London | [1]9 | — | [2]3 | — | — |
| Avon and Somerset | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| HQ Casework Directorate | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Derby | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Essex | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Gwent | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| HQ | 2 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Kent | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Leicestershire | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Nottinghamshire | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Northumbria | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| South Yorkshire | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Surrey | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Thames Valley | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| West Mercia | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| West Midlands | 2 | — | — | — | 1 |
| West Yorkshire | — | — | 2 | — | 1 |
| Total | 20 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 4 |

[1] Five ongoing
[2] One ongoing

*Table 3: 2007*

| *Area* | *Bullying harassment, discrimination* |
|---|---|
| London | 3 |
| Avon and Somerset | 1 |
| HQ Casework Directorate | 2 |
| CPS Direct | 1 |
| Cumbria | 1 |
| Derby | 1 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 1 |
| Essex | 1 |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight | 1 |
| HQ | 1 |
| Humberside | 1 |
| Lancashire | 1 |
| Leicestershire | 1 |
| Manchester | 1 |
| Norfolk | 1 |
| Suffolk | 1 |
| Thames Valley | 2 |
| West Midlands | 3 |
| West Yorkshire | 2 |
| Total | 26 |

*Table 4: 2006*

| *Area* | *Bullying harassment, discrimination* |
|---|---|
| London | 18 |
| HQ Casework Directorate | 2 |
| Durham | 2 |
| Essex | 1 |
| Hertfordshire | 1 |
| Lancashire | 1 |
| South Wales | 1 |
| Surrey | 1 |
| Thames Valley | 1 |
| West Midlands | 1 |
| West Yorkshire | 1 |
| Wiltshire | 1 |
| Total | 29 |

*Table 5: 2009*

| *Area* | *Bullying, harassment, discrimination* |
|---|---|
| London | 15 |
| Cumbria | 1 |
| Derby | 1 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 1 |
| East Midlands | 1 |
| Eastern | 1 |
| Essex | 1 |
| Gwent | 1 |
| HQ | 2 |
| Humberside | 1 |
| Kent | 1 |
| Manchester | 2 |
| South East | 1 |
| South Wales | 1 |
| South Yorkshire | 1 |
| Thames Valley | 1 |
| West Midlands | 4 |
| Total | 36 |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how much was spent by Crown Prosecution Service staff in *(a)* London and *(b)* each of its 42 regional offices on (i) travel and (ii) subsistence in each of the last five years. [305458]

**The Solicitor-General:** The following tables show how much was spent by Crown Prosecution Service staff in London and each of its 42 offices on (i) travel and (ii) subsistence in each of the last four years. The figures for 2004-05 are no longer available as a result of a change in accounting system during that year.

*Travel*

£

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 60,414 | 92,167 | 92,234 | 116,510 |
| Bedfordshire | 20,500 | 21,167 | 22,600 | 22,540 |
| Cambridgeshire | 60,836 | 51,606 | 49,001 | 55,613 |
| Cheshire | 71,329 | 62,900 | 71,611 | 65,647 |
| Cleveland | 45,615 | 41,890 | 38,510 | 11,260 |
| Cumbria | 88,646 | 76,013 | 67,904 | 67,645 |
| Derbyshire | 90,111 | 49,900 | 47,769 | 42,546 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 89,544 | 116,126 | 94,690 | 104,329 |
| Dorset | 32,519 | 38,991 | 40,462 | 43,630 |
| Durham | 54,501 | 55,471 | 47,426 | 50,160 |
| Dyfed Powys | 68,122 | 71,900 | 66,909 | 60,602 |
| Essex | 90,287 | 61,934 | 96,216 | 104,906 |
| Gloucestershire | 58,461 | 50,705 | 56,611 | 90,722 |
| Greater Manchester | 138,971 | 151,690 | 184,767 | 211,512 |
| Gwent | 48,817 | 42,442 | 49,155 | 52,919 |
| Hampshire | 91,650 | 99,894 | 92,136 | 95,567 |
| Hertfordshire | 34,400 | 37,211 | 38,702 | 43,636 |
| Humberside | 64,722 | 50,446 | 50,517 | 61,506 |
| Kent | 74,676 | 64,409 | 60,522 | 115,276 |
| Lancashire | 152,856 | 144,776 | 134,196 | 130,589 |
| Leicestershire | 54,641 | 33,951 | 34,919 | 35,316 |
| Lincolnshire | 54,688 | 63,412 | 64,000 | 50,606 |
| Merseyside | 109,556 | 101,536 | 97,601 | 94,891 |
| Metropolitan and City | 161,162 | 215,926 | 157,966 | 155,151 |
| Norfolk | 71,164 | 62,063 | 58,023 | 55,124 |
| Northamptonshire | 33,197 | 33,625 | 31,932 | 39,363 |
| Northumbria | 111,968 | 81,207 | 66,131 | 70,815 |
| North Wales | 94,038 | 83,142 | 91,361 | 95,135 |
| North Yorkshire | 61,879 | 70,541 | 72,613 | 81,601 |
| Nottinghamshire | 51,984 | 51,606 | 45,312 | 70,325 |
| South Wales | 124,112 | 133,425 | 119,534 | 125,451 |
| South Yorkshire | 61,233 | 59,720 | 62,566 | 90,697 |
| Staffordshire | 105,831 | 81,615 | 61,871 | 82,467 |
| Suffolk | 66,580 | 58,476 | 63,127 | 60,644 |
| Surrey | 28,079 | 28,098 | 37,633 | 34,726 |
| Sussex | 56,047 | 53,921 | 55,262 | 66,561 |
| Thames Valley | 132,172 | 122,253 | 122,779 | 146,999 |
| Warwickshire | 26,133 | 34,367 | 33,779 | 42,426 |
| West Mercia | 104,313 | 104,240 | 121,212 | 108,683 |
| West Midlands | 116,426 | 107,732 | 88,600 | 199,419 |
| West Yorkshire | 144,963 | 124,295 | 130,946 | 132,614 |
| Wiltshire | 63,126 | 62,339 | 75,437 | 75,176 |
| CPS Direct | 91,665 | 107,643 | 132,151 | 139,911 |

*Travel*

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | £<br>2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Organised Crime Division | 11 | 196,557 | 164,450 | 100,911 |
| Special Crime Division | | 155,264 | 71,800 | 78,125 |
| Counter Terrorism Division | | 29,081 | 55,430 | 61,970 |
| Headquarters | 1,624,171 | 1,567,312 | 1,566,736 | 1,798,717 |
| Business Centres | 452,697 | 173,519 | 258,452 | 257,345 |
| Total | 5,117,665 | 5,228,967 | 5,992,631 | 5,671,491 |

*Subsistence*

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | £<br>2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 17,558 | 17,827 | 16,799 | 23,164 |
| Bedfordshire | 9,831 | 7,767 | 6,563 | 5,297 |
| Cambridgeshire | 17,376 | 16,262 | 12,148 | 9,310 |
| Cheshire | 7,609 | 8,406 | 6,561 | 26,773 |
| Cleveland | 10,428 | 12,649 | 7,637 | 6,275 |
| Cumbria | 21,056 | 13,792 | 10,776 | 11,461 |
| Derbyshire | 9,213 | 12,651 | 7,514 | 7,249 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 28,068 | 55,766 | 16,208 | 24,869 |
| Dorset | 12,569 | 15,135 | 12,376 | 12,511 |
| Durham | 5,606 | 6,236 | 9,726 | 3,298 |
| Dyfed Powys | 14,760 | 15,056 | 12,165 | 16,755 |
| Essex | 20,442 | 24,604 | 19,089 | 26,503 |
| Gloucestershire | 9,964 | 6,255 | 5,227 | 5,611 |
| Greater Manchester | 94,679 | 64,291 | 69,768 | 69,590 |
| Gwent | 11,976 | 6,727 | 10,996 | 7,254 |
| Hampshire | 20,801 | 34,076 | 16,490 | 15,576 |
| Hertfordshire | 12,511 | 22,912 | 10,242 | 6,376 |
| Humberside | 13,215 | 13,927 | 13,065 | 10,900 |
| Kent | 12,958 | 18,428 | 17,509 | 20,536 |
| Lancashire | 17,093 | 13,767 | 15,629 | 18,176 |
| Leicestershire | 10,952 | 10,760 | 4,651 | 5,662 |
| Lincolnshire | 12,250 | 13,556 | 6,636 | 3,697 |
| Merseyside | 22,628 | 17,278 | 25,107 | 15,098 |
| Metropolitan and City | 51,133 | 80,549 | 59,165 | 35,673 |
| Norfolk | 14,938 | 8,230 | 7,508 | 8,709 |
| Northamptonshire | 5,409 | 9,761 | 7,742 | 6,549 |
| Northumbria | 18,559 | 23,966 | 10,265 | 20,626 |
| North Wales | 10,655 | 10,667 | 8,571 | 9,452 |
| North Yorkshire | 5,621 | 6,800 | 4,603 | 5,146 |
| Nottinghamshire | 6,193 | 5,975 | 7,297 | 9,563 |
| South Wales | 30,900 | 26,625 | 10,565 | 23,106 |
| South Yorkshire | 11,696 | 15,761 | 14,711 | 16,366 |
| Staffordshire | 10,470 | 8,351 | 9,009 | 6,090 |
| Suffolk | 11,302 | 12,165 | 10,815 | 4,976 |
| Surrey | 6,146 | 3,276 | 6,496 | 8,513 |
| Sussex | 12,050 | 14,430 | 15,137 | 12,500 |
| Thames Valley | 11,764 | 23,557 | 13,504 | 19,464 |
| Warwickshire | 2,356 | 8,226 | 3,442 | 3,549 |
| West Mercia | 24,835 | 11,732 | 26,509 | 20,672 |
| West Midlands | 23,576 | 20,775 | 14,296 | 16,362 |
| West Yorkshire | 27,130 | 36,646 | 25,100 | 14,533 |
| Wiltshire | 14,906 | 16,909 | 13,521 | 11,692 |
| CPS Direct | 14,179 | 56,076 | 36,667 | 52,256 |
| Organised Crime Division | 16 | 175,468 | 195,696 | 104,636 |
| Special Crime Division | | 43,732 | 22,644 | 38,768 |
| Counter Terrorism Division | | 22,000 | 32,164 | 49,623 |
| Headquarters | 767,004 | 677,048 | 632,617 | 555,362 |
| Business Centres | 67,752 | 106,480 | 102,267 | 106,252 |
| Total | 1,556,748 | 1,961,726 | 1,618,624 | 1,595,316 |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many days of sick leave were taken by Crown Prosecution Service employees (*a*) on average and (*b*) in total in (i) London and (ii) each of the 42 regional offices in each of the last five years; and what estimate she has made of the average cost per head to her Department of such leave (A) in total and (B) at each location in each such year. [305459]

**The Solicitor-General:** The average number of days sick absence taken by Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) staff in 2008-09 was 8.5 days per staff year. A total of 69,841.5 working days were recorded as sickness absence at an estimated salary cost of £1,045 per head. The following table shows the absence rates, total absence days and estimated salary cost per head for each CPS area for the previous five year period to March 2009.

*Average number of sick days for CPS areas*

| CPS | April to March | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 |
| Avon and Somerset | 7.9 | 7.4 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 9.2 |
| Bedfordshire | 8.9 | 8.9 | 5.5 | 6.7 | 6.4 |
| Cambridgeshire | 9.5 | 6.3 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 8.3 |
| Cheshire | 8.8 | 8.5 | 5.8 | 7 | 9.2 |
| Cleveland | 10.1 | 9.0 | 10.2 | 10.9 | 7.1 |
| CPS Direct | 7.6 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 5.8 | 5.2 |
| Cumbria | 7.1 | 17.6 | 19.7 | 10.8 | 10.2 |
| Derbyshire | 13.6 | 10.5 | 11.9 | 13.1 | 13.9 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 13.6 | 16.3 | 11.9 | 11.9 | 9.9 |
| Dorset | 7.7 | 13.5 | 8.4 | 7.8 | 12.5 |
| Durham | 10.1 | 8.2 | 9.2 | 7.1 | 11.8 |
| Dyfed Powys | 8.7 | 11.7 | 12.2 | 7.8 | 6.7 |
| Essex | 10.6 | 13.6 | 14.4 | 13 | 10.2 |
| Gloucestershire | 6.3 | 6.7 | 8.3 | 12.1 | 9.3 |
| Greater Manchester | 8.5 | 9.0 | 8.6 | 6.9 | 8 |
| Gwent | 5.9 | 6.3 | 9.1 | 6.2 | 6 |
| Hampshire | 7.6 | 8.2 | 8.4 | 7.4 | 8.1 |
| Hertfordshire | 6.7 | 7.8 | 8.2 | 6.2 | 5.5 |
| Humberside | 6.6 | 6.2 | 4.4 | 8 | 10 |
| Kent | 12.7 | 9.5 | 8.2 | 7.1 | 6.9 |
| Lancashire | 6.3 | 10.5 | 9.7 | 8.5 | 7 |
| Leicestershire | 10.2 | 11.1 | 9.5 | 8.8 | 8.2 |
| Lincolnshire | 8.8 | 10.0 | 9.4 | 8.7 | 14.2 |
| London | 9.5 | 10.8 | 9.5 | 10.6 | 9.6 |
| Merseyside | 10.9 | 12.7 | 11.1 | 10.9 | 10.1 |
| Norfolk | 5.7 | 8.6 | 8.8 | 7.4 | 11.4 |
| North Wales | 4.9 | 9.5 | 9 | 6.3 | 3 |
| North Yorkshire | 5.3 | 9.1 | 7.5 | 5.4 | 4.7 |
| Northamptonshire | 6.0 | 8.7 | 9.9 | 7.7 | 7 |
| Northumbria | 11.5 | 10.1 | 8.3 | 10.5 | 8.3 |
| Nottinghamshire | 9.3 | 6.8 | 7.5 | 11.5 | 13.2 |
| South Wales | 9.5 | 15.7 | 9.9 | 9.1 | 11 |
| South Yorkshire | 9.4 | 10.3 | 8.9 | 6.8 | 7.8 |
| Staffordshire | 6.5 | 13.0 | 7.6 | 7.2 | 9 |
| Suffolk | 9.0 | 7.3 | 9.6 | 7.7 | 5.3 |
| Surrey | 5.6 | 8.8 | 13.8 | 12.7 | 6.6 |
| Sussex | 6.6 | 9.1 | 6.6 | 7 | 9.6 |
| Thames Valley | 4.9 | 8.4 | 8.1 | 6.5 | 5.4 |
| Warwickshire | 4.5 | 2.9 | 9.2 | 4.4 | 6 |
| West Mercia | 13.0 | 15.4 | 12.1 | 8.8 | 11.6 |
| West Midlands | 8.8 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 8.3 | 7 |
| West Yorkshire | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.9 | 8.8 | 11.8 |
| Wiltshire | 10.9 | 10.1 | 7.8 | 6.8 | 5.5 |
| Total CPS | 8.5 | 9.4 | 8.7 | 8.6 | 8.7 |

*Total number of sick absence days per CPS area*

| CPS | April to March | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 |
| Casework | 1,636.5 | 1,954 | 1,666 | 2,154 | 2,009 |
| HQ | 4,254.5 | 5,298.5 | 4,344.5 | 4,606 | 4,705.5 |
| Avon and Somerset | [illegible] | [illegible] | 1,404 | 1,537.5 | 1,878.5 |
| Bedfordshire | 260.0 | 292.5 | 985.5 | 637.4 | 549.5 |
| Cambridgeshire | 656.5 | 480.5 | 556 | 522.5 | 625 |
| Cheshire | [illegible] | [illegible] | 606 | 915 | 1,135 |
| Cleveland | [illegible] | [illegible] | 1,303.5 | 1,333 | 1,062 |
| CPS Direct | [illegible] | 567.5 | 700 | 813.5 | 541.5 |

*Total number of sick absence days per CPS area*

| CPS | April to March<br>2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cumbria | 483.0 | 1,234.5 | 1,582 | 942.5 | 867 |
| Derbyshire | 1,512.5 | 1,206.0 | 1,419 | 1,740.5 | 2,046 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 1,615.0 | 1,703.5 | 1,618 | 1,817 | 1,390.5 |
| Dorset | 542.0 | 901.5 | 582 | 555 | 831 |
| Durham | 846.5 | 649.0 | 767 | 669 | 1,057.5 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 227.5 | 745.5 | 822 | 611 | 646 |
| Essex | 1,790.5 | 2,213.5 | 2,077 | 2,186.5 | 2,245 |
| Gloucestershire | 232.0 | 360.5 | 463 | 620.5 | 766 |
| Greater Manchester | 3,885.0 | 3,771.0 | 4,641.5 | 3,732.5 | 4,216 |
| Gwent | 485.0 | 597.5 | 860.5 | 561.5 | 553.5 |
| Hampshire | 1,595.5 | 1,809.0 | 2,184 | 1,942 | 2,419.5 |
| Hertfordshire | 977.5 | 917.5 | 770.5 | 855.5 | 691 |
| Humberside | 711.5 | 668.5 | 680 | 1,025 | 1,108 |
| Kent | 2,262.5 | 1,611.5 | 1,593.5 | 1,305.5 | 1,218 |
| Lancashire | 1,982.5 | 2,470.0 | 2,632.5 | 2,390 | 2,165 |
| Leicestershire | 1,182.5 | 1,366.5 | 1,332 | 1,274.5 | 1,226 |
| Lincolnshire | 655.0 | 1,188.5 | 706.5 | 841 | 926.5 |
| London | 12,440.0 | 14,980.5 | 14,415.5 | 15,005 | 1,5493.5 |
| Merseyside | 2,712.0 | 3,440.0 | 3,206 | 3,803.5 | 3,626 |
| Norfolk | 523.5 | 822.0 | 513.5 | 808 | 1,135.5 |
| North Wales | 366.0 | 653.5 | 728 | 596.5 | 328 |
| North Yorkshire | 417.0 | 699.5 | 713 | 548 | 635 |
| Northamptonshire | 455.0 | 349.0 | 511 | 733 | 650 |
| Northumbria | 2,922.0 | 2,513.5 | 2,251 | 2,902.5 | 2,384.5 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,564.0 | 1,071.5 | 1,465 | 2,273 | 2,453 |
| South Wales | 1,242.0 | 2,638.5 | 2,413.5 | 2,601.5 | 2,736.5 |
| South Yorkshire | 1,667.0 | 1,805.0 | 1,881 | 1,448 | 1,939 |
| Staffordshire | 933.5 | 1,870.0 | 1,076.5 | 1,033 | 1,238.5 |
| Suffolk | 590.5 | 497.0 | 760 | 621 | 445 |
| Surrey | 408.5 | 711.5 | 1,167.5 | 1,080 | 462 |
| Sussex | 1,285.0 | 1,191.0 | 1,031 | 1,173 | 1,664 |
| Thames Valley | 1,064.5 | 1,773.5 | 1,597 | 1,857.5 | 1,543.5 |
| Warwickshire | 164.0 | 92.0 | 239.5 | 209.5 | 382 |
| West Mercia | 1,522.0 | 1,575.0 | 2,051.5 | 1,611.5 | 1,704 |
| West Midlands | 4,360.5 | 4,339.5 | 5,490.5 | 4,875 | 4,856 |
| West Yorkshire | 2,520.5 | 2,031.5 | 2,978 | 2,797.5 | 4,128 |
| Wiltshire | 673.5 | 624.0 | 500 | 370.5 | 381.5 |
| Total CPS | 69,841.5 | 78,545.0 | 80,545.5 | 81,870 | 85,184 |

*Estimated cost per head of sickness absence*

| CPS | April to March<br>2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Casework | 641.30 | 1,127.44 | 1,042.28 | 1,399.85 | 1,290.84 |
| HQ | 865.21 | 1,124.65 | 866.64 | 737.20 | 757.56 |
| Avon and Somerset | 915.29 | 852.07 | 958.65 | 1,050.20 | 1,383.57 |
| Bedfordshire | 475.52 | 444.49 | 777.12 | 1,017.90 | 1,126.48 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,164.19 | 763.51 | 900.72 | 974.81 | 1,114.13 |
| Cheshire | 1,061.63 | 1,012.48 | 840.92 | 1,021.21 | 1,260.14 |
| Cleveland | 1,283.51 | 1,076.11 | 1,187.67 | 1,501.13 | 1,209.50 |
| CPS Direct | 877.56 | 615.90 | 753.39 | 1,048.32 | |
| Cumbria | 771.96 | 1,933.54 | 2,480.42 | 1,510.42 | 1,460.84 |
| Derbyshire | 1,676.35 | 1,264.35 | 1,553.56 | 2,014.47 | 2,174.13 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 1,678.00 | 1,741.74 | 1,409.03 | 1,720.64 | 1,425.26 |
| Dorset | 936.18 | 1,698.48 | 1,137.14 | 1,196.12 | 1,036.42 |
| Durham | 1,160.66 | 1,054.61 | 1,262.98 | 1,096.68 | 1,646.49 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 496.02 | 1,468.41 | 1,581.73 | 1,106.88 | 1,324.30 |
| Essex | 1,233.87 | 1,634.97 | 1,680.12 | 1,740.84 | 1,833.26 |
| Gloucestershire | 551.00 | 794.32 | 1,088.91 | 1,305.04 | 1,777.70 |
| Greater Manchester | 1,092.40 | 955.61 | 1,162.66 | 984.31 | 1,147.27 |
| Gwent | 777.17 | 817.63 | 1,332.73 | 845.61 | 861.78 |
| Hampshire | 859.12 | 951.82 | 1,190.90 | 1,055.43 | 1,423.92 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,111.18 | 993.96 | 868.39 | 954.80 | 876.22 |
| Humberside | 788.58 | 605.24 | 629.75 | 1,164.77 | 1,376.61 |

*Estimated cost per head of sickness absence*

| CPS | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | April to March | | | | |
| Kent | 1,062.90 | 1,151.07 | 1,169.79 | 1,013.90 | 913.50 |
| Lancashire | 1,040.24 | 1,264.40 | 1,317.31 | 1,219.90 | 1,095.86 |
| Leicestershire | 1,278.64 | 1,335.66 | 1,342.97 | 1,350.11 | 1,216.11 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,226.97 | 1,031.31 | 1,267.62 | 1,401.67 | 1,700.99 |
| London | 1,298.56 | 1,291.19 | 1,327.61 | 1,429.90 | 1,464.80 |
| Merseyside | 1,408.97 | 1,490.67 | 1,350.56 | 1,617.13 | 1,587.18 |
| Norfolk | [illegible] | 1,088.11 | 658.73 | 1,086.02 | 1,504.79 |
| North Wales | 996.40 | 987.83 | 1,127.91 | 904.17 | 960.33 |
| North Yorkshire | 637.48 | 1,057.38 | 1,131.89 | 878.21 | 1,055.47 |
| Northamptonshire | 775.83 | 996.07 | 927.10 | 1,238.18 | 1,160.42 |
| Northumbria | 1,418.34 | 1,214.70 | 1,082.87 | 1,455.50 | 1,177.89 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,155.62 | 809.85 | 1,134.48 | 1,681.21 | 1,851.08 |
| South Wales | 679.78 | 1,411.54 | 1,245.99 | 1,458.24 | 1,662.81 |
| South Yorkshire | 1,131.18 | 1,348.14 | 1,257.30 | 957.67 | 1,317.66 |
| Staffordshire | 850.36 | 1,548.41 | 976.54 | 935.69 | 1,128.41 |
| Suffolk | 1,121.95 | 850.13 | 1,253.51 | 1,011.36 | 760.21 |
| Surrey | 639.18 | 1,101.13 | 2,003.68 | 1,811.59 | 848.15 |
| Sussex | 999.44 | 967.69 | 872.91 | 1,066.11 | 1,538.89 |
| Thames Valley | 570.88 | 981.09 | 870.47 | 1,100.41 | 1,004.50 |
| Warwickshire | 907.26 | 284.76 | 741.87 | 699.14 | 1,204.77 |
| West Mercia | 1,340.57 | 1,383.45 | 1,901.76 | 1,646.67 | 1,903.26 |
| West Midlands | 1,132.71 | 1,041.80 | 1,262.94 | 1,197.20 | 1,214.08 |
| West Yorkshire | 1,015.84 | 772.21 | 1,151.07 | 1,106.61 | 1,703.84 |
| Wiltshire | 1,444.77 | 1,210.75 | 1,058.33 | 988.09 | 868.97 |
| Total CPS | 1,045.46 | 1,141.13 | 1,188.07 | 1,219.76 | 1,310.03 |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many and what proportion of staff employed by the Crown Prosecution Service in *(a)* London and *(b)* each of its 42 regional offices are from black and minority ethnic groups; and whether a comparative estimate has been made of the proportion of the population comprised of people from black and minority ethnic groups in each such area. [305485]

**The Solicitor-General:** The current representation of black and minority ethnic (BME) staff in the CPS is 15 per cent. This compares with a national figure of 12.4 per cent. of the working age population being of BME origin. The CPS employs 41 per cent. BME staff in London, its highest representation of BME staff, compared with 35.8 per cent. of BME people of working age in London. In other CPS areas, the representation of BME staff range from 1 per cent. in Cumbria and North Yorkshire to 23 per cent. in West Midlands compared with a BME working population of 0.4 per cent. and 26.9 per cent. respectively. The following table provides a detailed breakdown of the data.

*Black and minority ethnic staff*

| | CPS areas | | | Community—working age | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage | Total | Number | Percentage | Total |
| CPS London | 567 | 41 | 1,369 | 1,851,500 | 35.8 | 5,177,300 |
| CPS Avon and Somerset | 9 | 5 | 182 | 38,100 | 4.7 | 816,500 |
| CPS Bedfordshire | 16 | 22 | 73 | 80,300 | 21.4 | 375,200 |
| CPS Cambridgeshire | 9 | 12 | 75 | 25,100 | 6.7 | 376,400 |
| CPS Cheshire | 5 | 4 | 112 | 12,300 | 2.0 | 614,000 |
| CPS Cleveland | 3 | 3 | 103 | 13,700 | 4.0 | 344,900 |
| CPS Cumbria | 1 | 1 | 83 | 1,200 | 0.4 | 295,400 |
| CPS Derbyshire | 13 | 11 | 120 | 34,700 | 5.7 | 608,700 |
| CPS Devon and Cornwall | 6 | 5 | 128 | 10,600 | 1.3 | 817,500 |
| CPS Dorset | 9 | 12 | 77 | 16,100 | 2.9 | 551,700 |
| CPS Durham | 4 | 4 | 97 | 5,500 | 1.5 | 372,900 |
| CPS Dyfed Powys | | 0 | 61 | 2,300 | 0.8 | 291,500 |
| CPS Essex | 14 | 7 | 193 | 59,200 | 5.8 | 1,021,100 |
| CPS Gloucestershire | 5 | 9 | 56 | 32,400 | 5.2 | 629,100 |
| CPS Greater Manchester | 41 | 9 | 473 | 202,300 | 13.9 | 1,455,200 |
| CPS Gwent | 4 | 5 | 63 | 7,000 | 2.3 | 306,000 |
| CPS Hampshire | [illegible] | 4 | 247 | 63,900 | 5.0 | 1,264,800 |
| CPS Hertfordshire | 19 | 16 | 117 | 56,000 | 8.7 | 657,300 |
| CPS Humberside | 4 | 3 | 120 | 30,000 | 6.5 | 466,500 |
| CPS Kent | 13 | 7 | 181 | 38,300 | 4.7 | 833,200 |
| CPS Lancashire | 12 | 5 | 261 | 93,700 | 9.0 | 1,042,200 |

*Black and minority ethnic staff*

| | CPS areas | | | Community working age | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage | Total | Number | Percentage | Total |
| CPS Leicestershire | 27 | 22 | 123 | 111,400 | 18.9 | 589,600 |
| CPS Lincolnshire | 4 | 6 | 71 | 14,600 | 2.4 | 599,000 |
| CPS Merseyside | 6 | 2 | 296 | 35,000 | 4.1 | 922,000 |
| CPS Norfolk | 6 | 7 | 92 | 12,700 | 2.5 | 492,400 |
| CPS North Wales | 5 | 4 | 88 | 2,000 | 0.7 | 366,500 |
| CPS North Yorkshire | 1 | 1 | 87 | 12,000 | 1.9 | 675,700 |
| CPS Northamptonshire | 16 | 21 | 76 | 40,000 | 8.7 | 530,800 |
| CPS Northumbria | 9 | 3 | 274 | 50,000 | 4.6 | 989,500 |
| CPS Nottinghamshire | 15 | 7 | 190 | 64,500 | 9.1 | 695,700 |
| CPS South Wales | 15 | 6 | 243 | 36,000 | 4.5 | 762,500 |
| CPS South Yorkshire | 10 | 4 | 196 | 64,400 | 9.6 | 880,000 |
| CPS Staffordshire | 7 | 6 | 140 | 34,000 | 5.1 | 671,700 |
| CPS Suffolk | 3 | 4 | 79 | 14,300 | 3.4 | 418,000 |
| CPS Surrey | 13 | 13 | 99 | 67,900 | 9.8 | 700,600 |
| CPS Sussex | 10 | 6 | 173 | 45,000 | 5.0 | 905,500 |
| CPS Thames Valley | 36 | 13 | 280 | 157,000 | 13.1 | 1,201,700 |
| CPS Warwickshire | 7 | 16 | 43 | 23,700 | 7.3 | 322,700 |
| CPS West Mercia | 6 | 3 | 190 | 23,100 | 3.3 | 707,200 |
| CPS West Midlands | 117 | 21 | 552 | 429,300 | 26.9 | 1,593,000 |
| CPS West Yorkshire | 52 | 10 | 500 | 201,000 | 13.4 | 1,520,000 |
| CPS Wiltshire | 2 | 3 | 62 | 5,000 | 2.2 | 264,000 |
| Business Centres total | 14 | 10 | 147 | — | — | — |
| Casework total | 71 | 20 | 356 | — | — | — |
| Head Quarters total | 92 | 15 | 607 | — | — | — |
| CPS Direct | 18 | 11 | 163 | — | — | — |
| Total | 1,300 | 15 | 8,885 | 4,151,700 | 12.4 | 33,526,000 |

Staff in these divisions work in multiple locations across the country including home working

Notes:

1. Data taken from quarterly Intranet Stats published to CPS Infonet.
2. Data may be subject to change due to retrospective changes in the HR database.
3. Data exclude career break staff.
4. Communities data taken from ONS NOMIS database (Labour Force Statistics).

Source:

HR database Trent as at 1 October 2009

## Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many plasma screen televisions the Law Officers' Departments have purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306773]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Attorney-General's Office have purchased two plasma screen televisions at a total cost of £3,549.20 since 2001.

In 2007 the Serious Fraud Office purchased four plasma screen televisions for its Elm House headquarters. The total cost was £9,239.70 (Plus VAT). The total cost for installation cabling and mounting of the plasma screens are estimated to be around £6,639.36 (plus VAT).

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office has purchased one plasma screen television since 2001 at a cost of £1,755, which includes purchase and installation.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department has purchased the following plasma television screens since 2001, of them, five are for use in In-House Training and not for receiving television signals.

*Plasma Televisions*

| | Number | Cost (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 2 | [1]1,190 |
| 2006 | 2 | [1]1,700 |
| 2007 | 2 | [1]3,302 |

[1] Plus VAT

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has purchased nine plasma screen televisions during the period in question at a total cost of £15,738.02 including installation CPS central records only hold items that cost over the capitalisation threshold of £500 and it is possible that plasma television screen(s) have been purchased by CPS Area(s) at a lower cost. To obtain this information would require local managers to review all paper procurement records and would incur disproportionate cost."

## Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Solicitor-General (1) what redesigns of websites operated by (*a*) the Law Officers' Departments and (*b*) its agency have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such redesign was; [306173]

(2) what redesigns of websites operated by the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the (*a*) cost to the public purse and (*b*) date of completion of each such redesign was. [306207]

(3) what redesigns of websites operated by the Crown Prosecution Service have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was; [306201]

(4) what redesigns of websites operated by the Serious Fraud Office have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306206]

**The Solicitor-General:** The information requested for each Law Officers' Department is outlined.

There has only been one redesign of the sole website operated by Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office since it was established on 18 April 2005.

The total cost for the strategy and planning, design and build, hosting and infrastructure, content provision, testing and evaluation and staff costs for the site was £58,741.20. The redevelopment of the site was completed on 12 December 2008.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department Operates Websites for Bona Vacantia, the Treasury Solicitor's Dept and the Government Legal Service. Since 27 June 2007 the only website redesign has been for Bona Vacantia. The cost of the redesign was £42,598.75 with the redesign being completed and the website available for use on 41 February 2009.

The Crown Prosecution Service has redesigned its website once since 27 June 2007. The total cost of the redesign was £60,085 and the work was completed on 31 March 2009.

The Attorney-General's Office built new websites for both itself and the National Fraud Authority earlier this year, the combined cost of both sites was £59,184.

The Serious Fraud Office has redesigned its website on one occasion since 2007. The work began in February 2009 and the completed website was launched on 2 October 2009. The final cost was £113,309.

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate has redesigned its whole website once since 27 June 2007. (i) There was no additional cost to the public purse as work was completed internally and was part of work stream anticipated for the publication team. (ii) The new website design was launched in March 2009.

## Departmental Training

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many overseas training courses were attended by civil servants in the Law Officers' Departments in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305886]

**The Solicitor-General:** During the last full financial year, 2008-09, three overseas training courses were attended by staff from Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office. A single member of staff attended each course, and the overall cost to the Department was £548.

The Crown Prosecution Service is a devolved organisation. Although expenditure data on overseas travel are available the Department does not keep central records of the reason for travel or how many overseas training courses have been attended by CPS staff nor the associated costs, and therefore the information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

No staff from the remaining Law Officers' Departments have attended any overseas training courses during the latest period for which figures are available.

## Terrorism

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average time taken from charge to final disposal was in each case prosecuted under terrorism legislation in respect of which legal proceedings have been completed in each of the last five years. [305453]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not capture management information about the time taken from charge to disposal in cases prosecuted under terrorism, or any other legislation. The information requested could be obtained only by the individual analysis of case files, which would incur disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General what the outcome was of each case in respect of which legal proceedings have been completed which was prosecuted under terrorism legislation in each of the last five years. [305454]

**The Solicitor-General:** The data requested can be found in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 2009-09: Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Subsequent Legislation – arrest, outcomes and stops and searches Great Britain 2008-09, published on 26 November 2009. This is available on the Home Office website at

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/whatsnew1.html

This bulletin brings together information on terrorism arrests, outcomes, and stop and searches previously published in separate statistical bulletins.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 14 December 2009*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Affordable Housing: Construction

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes have been built in *(a)* Ashford constituency and *(b)* Kent in each of the last 12 months. [304927]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information on new affordable homes is not available by constituency.

In 2008-09, 250 affordable homes were built in Ashford local authority and 1,940 in Kent.

These figures are from the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG.

Figures are only available on a monthly basis from the IMS data, they are not available monthly from local authority returns. The monthly IMS figures are shown in the following table:

*New Build affordable homes provided with funding by the HCA*

| | Ashford LA | Kent |
|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | |
| April | 0 | 30 |
| May | 0 | 0 |
| June | 0 | 40 |
| July | 0 | 10 |
| August | 30 | 110 |
| September | 20 | 100 |
| October | 50 | 170 |
| November | 10 | 60 |
| December | 40 | 120 |
| *2009* | | |
| January | 20 | 160 |
| February | 10 | 420 |
| March | 90 | 670 |
| Total with HCA funding | 250 | 1,890 |

*Note:*
The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, so the totals may not sum due to rounding.

Total affordable housing supply includes social rent, intermediate rent and low cost home ownership. Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions; in 2008-09, a total of 260 additional affordable homes were provided in Ashford, and 2,370 were provided in England (new build and acquisitions).

### Affordable Housing: Rural Areas

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were available in rural areas through the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* First Time Buyers Initiative, *(d)* Open Market HomeBuy and *(e)* Social HomeBuy schemes on the latest date for which figures are available. [305037]

**John Healey:** For *(a)*, 259 homes were available in rural areas with less than 10,000 inhabitants under HomeBuy Direct in 2009-10, as at end September 2009;

For *(b)*, 408 homes were completed in rural areas with less than 10,000 inhabitants under New Build HomeBuy in 2009-10, as at end September 2009;

For *(c)*, *(d)* and *(e)* First Time Buyers Initiative, Open Market HomeBuy and Social HomeBuy; we do not hold data centrally on the number of homes available in rural areas.

*Data source:*

Homes and Communities Agency

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in rural areas were built on exception sites in each year since 1989. [305041]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The number of affordable homes provided on rural exception sites was 1,219 in 2008-09. This estimate is as reported by local authorities in the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix. Figures are not available for earlier years.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in rural areas were *(a)* available and *(b)* purchased through the (i) HomeBuy Direct, (ii) New Build HomeBuy, (iii) First-Time Buyer's Initiative, (iv) Open Market HomeBuy and (v) Social HomeBuy scheme in each of the last three years. [305273]

**John Healey:** For (i), HomeBuy Direct only became operational in February 2009.

For (ii), the number of New Build HomeBuy homes available and purchased in rural areas with less than 10,000 inhabitants in the last three years is as follows (separate information on homes available and purchased is not held centrally):

2008-09: 1,114

2007-08: 829

2006-07: 200

For (iii), the First Time Buyer's Initiative; the availability of homes and purchases in rural areas is not recorded separately.

For (iv), Open Market HomeBuy homes are purchased on the open market, so no data are held on properties available. The number of purchases in rural areas with less than 10,000 inhabitants in the last three years is as follows:

2008-09: Information not held centrally following changes to data collection.

2007-08: Five.

2006-07: Three.

For (v), Social HomeBuy, we do not hold data centrally on homes available from landlords participating in the scheme.

*Data source:*

Homes and Communities Agency

### Community Assets Programme

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many community asset transfers have taken place since the publication of the Quirk review. [306397]

**Barbara Follett:** In relation to the implementation of the Quirk Review, the Advancing Assets for Communities demonstration programme supported 50 local authority and community partnerships between 2007 and 2009 and over one-third of the 80 pilot projects supported are expected to complete successful transfer before 31 March 2010. The programme is supporting 22 partnerships in 2009-10 and will continue until 2011. Nationally there are no data for exactly how many community asset transfers have taken place but a recent survey by SQW consultants found that from a sample of 119 local authorities, 350 asset transfer projects are currently under way.

### Community Infrastructure Levy

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the yearly revenue to be generated by the Community Infrastructure Levy once operational; and whether such revenue will be classified as tax revenue for the purposes of the national accounting rules. [305931]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 456-57W.

### Community Relations: Elderly

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to reduce social isolation amongst elderly people. [305988]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Communities and Local Government has various programmes and policies which contribute towards reducing social isolation among older people.

The Supporting People (SP) programme provides housing-related support which can help older people to maintain health and well-being, and take part in their communities. Between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009, SP outcomes data show 9,212 older people receiving long-term housing-related support services were supported to establish contact with external services, family or friends, and 6,757 were supported to participate in leisure, cultural, faith or learning activities.

Our work to create more cohesive, active and empowered communities includes strengthening third sector and voluntary organisations that will provide important support to local groups who are in a position to work actively in local communities. We are supporting a £5.5 million cross-Government scheme to promote intergenerational volunteering and encourage meaningful interaction between young and old generations.

Communities and Local Government encourages the adoption of Lifetime Neighbourhoods principles, and will shortly commission a report to provide advice to local authorities in making a reality of Lifetime Neighbourhoods.

Digital technology can also be extremely valuable in helping people to stay in regular contact with their families and friends. Communities and Local Government is working with the Department for Work and Pensions and other partners to deliver a commitment to run digital inclusion projects targeted at giving people in sheltered housing access to new technology.

### Council Housing

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 642W, on council housing, if he will place in the Library a copy of the research reports on *(a)* rent analysis and *(b)* debt analysis. [305818]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The documents have been placed in the Library. They have been available on the Communities and Local Government website since 21 July.

### Council Housing: Rents

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities with council housing have not applied for financial support for reduced rent increases for council tenants. [305933]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Harlow and North Kesteven district councils have not taken up the Government's offer of compensation to enable them to reduce their rent increases in 2009-10 to an average of 3.1 per cent.

### Council Tax: Empty Property

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1109W, on council housing: finance, whether local authorities which reduced their council tax discount on empty homes will be permitted to retain the additional revenue raised under the recalculation of the council tax base for the 2011-12 settlement. [306723]

**Barbara Follett:** All council tax revenue is retained by local authorities.

For the purposes of formula grant distribution, the council tax base for each authority is the number of Band D equivalent properties in their authority. The number of dwellings in each band is calculated by taking the number of dwellings on the valuation list and adjusting for various exemptions and discounts. This includes the number of dwellings that receive a discount because they are classed as long-term empty dwellings.

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305872]

**Barbara Follett:** Records on overseas visits held in Communities and Local Government (CLG) do not identify separately the number made to attend foreign conferences or information on/or cost of what conferences were attended. This information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All ministerial travel and travel by CLG staff is undertaken in accordance with the 'Civil Service Management Code' and the 'Ministerial Code'.

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what redesigns of websites operated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies there have been since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such redesign was. [306170]

**Barbara Follett:** For information relating to the redesign of the Department's corporate website in August 2007, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 264W.

The Department does not hold information on the website redesign of its agencies' sites centrally and so this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff of his Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306707]

**Barbara Follett:** The number of staff in the Communities and Local Government redeployment pool—known as the Career Transition Centre (CTC)—were as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1 January 2009 | 36 |
| 1 April 2009 | 57 |
| 1 July 2009 | 53 |
| 1 October 2009 | 52 |

As of 1 December 2009 the number of staff in the CTC had fallen to 33. Staff in the CTC undertake meaningful temporary roles while awaiting a permanent post, to widen their experience and alleviate pressure points in the business.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on *(a)* ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305512]

**Barbara Follett:** The communication directorate of the Department for Communities and Local Government has commissioned:

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| | *Photographs* | *Video* |
| 2006-07 | 470 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 794 | 0 |
| 2008-09 | 445 | 3,658 |

### Empty Dwelling Management Orders

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how he evaluates the effectiveness of empty dwelling management orders. [304642]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department is making a continuous assessment of the success of EDMOs through its regular contact with local authorities and the Empty Homes Agency.

### Empty Property

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many long-term empty private homes there were in each Government office region in each year since 2003. [306399]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information on the number of privately-owned homes that are long-term vacant is not held centrally.

### Empty Property: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many long-term empty properties there were in Leeds in each year since 1990; [306588]

(2) how many long-term empty properties there were in Leeds, West constituency in each year since 1990. [306601]

**Barbara Follett:** The number of long-term empty domestic dwellings in Leeds since 2004 are shown in the following table. Data prior to 2004 are not available and data are not available at constituency level.

| | *Long-term empty dwellings* |
|---|---|
| 1 November 2004 | 6,445 |
| 10 October 2005 | 4,542 |
| 9 October 2006 | 4,070 |
| 8 October 2007 | 4,525 |
| 6 October 2008 | 4,712 |
| 5 October 2009 | 4,724 |

The data are taken from the Council Tax Base (CTB) form completed annually in the autumn by all billing authorities in England and returned to Communities and Local Government.

Details of the number of empty non-domestic hereditaments are not currently available.

### Equality Bill 2008-09 then 2009-10

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column

838W, on the Equality Bill, whether local authorities will be compensated under the new burdens principle for the costs to them of implementing the provisions of the Equality Bill. [305819]

**Barbara Follett:** The Government are committed to ensuring that all new burdens falling on local authorities are fully and properly funded so that there is no upward pressure on council tax bills. Where appropriate, funding is provided through the formula grant system or through specific grants.

## Fire Services

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the date upon which each regional fire control room will become operational. [303477]

**Mr. Malik:** Under current planning assumptions the first regional fire control rooms are expected to become operational in spring 2011 and the last fire and rescue service will switch over by the end of 2012:

| *Regional control centre* | *Go live date* |
|---|---|
| South West | May 2011 |
| East Midlands | May 2011 |
| North East | May 2011 |
| West Midlands | May 2011 |
| North West | January 2012 |
| South East | March 2012 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | July 2012 |
| East of England | September 2011 |
| London | September 2011 |

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to publish updated national and regional business plans for the FiReControl project. [303479]

**Mr. Malik:** At present we have no plans to publish an updated FiReControl Business Case.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations his Department has received on the FiReControl project from *(a)* fire and rescue and *(b)* local authorities in the last 12 months. [303481]

**Mr. Malik:** FiReControl is being delivered in close partnership with local government. Over the last 12 months, representations have been received on a regular and ongoing basis.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date he expects the regional fire control centre in *(a)* the South West, *(b)* the South East, *(c)* the East of England, *(d)* the East Midlands, *(e)* the West Midlands, *(f)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(g)* the North West and *(h)* the North East to become operational. [303806]

**Mr. Malik:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) today (UIN 303477).

## Fire Services: Contracts

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which contractors have been awarded contracts worth over £1 million under the FiReControl regional fire control room project to date. [303480]

**Mr. Malik:** The following have been awarded contracts worth over £1 million under the FiReControl project:

*Contractors*

Actica

Atkins

Canada Life Ltd.

CB Richard Ellis

Chief Fire Officers' Association

Cornwell

Denton, Wilde and Sapte

EADS

Leafrange Ltd.

PA Consulting

Turner and Townsend

VT Group

*Developers*

Broadlands Wolverhampton Ltd.

Cambridge Research Park Ltd.

Easter Properties (Fareham) Ltd. and Norwich Union Life and Pensions Ltd.

East Properties Ltd. and Norwich Union Life and Pensions Ltd.

Summerfield Developments (SW) Ltd.

Yorkcourt Properties Ltd.

*Landlords*

Canada Life Ltd.

Control Centre Limited Partnership Canada Life Ltd.

Leafrange Ltd.

## Fire Services: Finance

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent *(a)* assessment of the progress on and *(b)* estimate of the cost of the FiReControl project is. [303299]

**Mr. Malik:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Copeland (Mr. Reed) on 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 761W.

The estimated full cost of implementing FiReControl is £420 million.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated gross cost of the FireControl project is over each of the next 15 years. [303462]

**Mr. Malik:** The estimated remaining FiReControl implementation project cost is circa £230 million. Beyond implementation Communities and Local Government has also committed to support any fire and rescue authority for whom operating costs are forecast to increase under the new networked control arrangements. The current estimate for this is £8.2 million each year.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons other than specification changes expenditure on the FiReControl project has exceeded the initial budget. [303482]

**Mr. Malik:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Copeland (Mr. Reed) on 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 764W.

### Fires: Death

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average age was of those killed in domestic fires in each fire and rescue authority area in each year since 2000. [307180]

**Mr. Malik:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have been killed in domestic fires in properties held under each type of housing tenure in each fire and rescue authority area in each year since 2000. [307189]

**Mr. Malik:** Type of housing tenure is not currently collected in fire incident records. The practicalities of doing so are being considered within the current review of the information collected by the Incident Recording System.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* ethnicity have been killed in domestic fires in each fire and rescue authority area in each year since 2000. [307190]

**Mr. Malik:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Information on the number of fatalities by ethnicity has been collected only since the introduction of the new Incident Recording System. This was live across all of England and much of the UK from 1 April 2009. Data for 2009-10 will be available in summer 2010.

### Flats: Construction

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of new completed dwellings in England have been flats in each year since 2000. [306748]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Figures for the number of new-build dwellings completed in England each year since 2000 are given in live table 244 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1387095.xls

Figures on the proportion of new-build dwellings completed each year that were flats are given in live table 254 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table254.xls

### Floods: Cumbria

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on flood recovery in Cumbria in the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [304712]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Prime Minister announced on 20 November that Communities and Local Government would make £1 million available for local authorities in Cumbria to use as they see fit to assist communities in recovering from the floods.

### Floods: Finance

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of local authority expenditure on repairing flood damage in each of the last five years. [305229]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Gardens: Planning Permission

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the publication of his Department's review into garden and infill development. [305814]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** We will make a further announcement and publish the findings of the review together with the evidence shortly.

### Green Belt

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local planning authorities have land with green belt designation. [306400]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** At 31 March 2009, a total of 197 local authorities had designated Green Belt land. The detailed list is in "Local Planning Authority Green Belt Statistics: England 2008-09 Annex 1", which can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/lagreenbelt2008

### Historic Buildings: Planning Permission

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations his Department has received from *(a)* the Royal Town Planning Institute and *(b)* heritage or conservation groups on the revision of PPS15. [305936]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department received nearly 500 responses to the consultation exercise on draft Planning Policy Statement 15 (Planning for the Historic Environment). One of these was from the Royal Town Planning Institute, which submitted a joint response with the Institute of Historic Building Conservation. More than 50 were from heritage or conservation groups. All responses are now being considered, and a summary and analysis will be published before the end of January 2010.

### Homelessness: Young People

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people aged between 16 and 25 years have been registered as homeless in each year since 1997. [307024]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq32009

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty to secure that suitable accommodation is available ('homeless acceptances'). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation (TA) until a settled home becomes available.

Figures on homeless acceptances by age group of the applicant, for each financial year since 1998-99 can be found in table 10(b) of the statistical release mentioned above. The table shows number of applicants who are aged between 16 and 24 years old. The equivalent 1997-98 figures can be found in earlier additions of the release, accessible from the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness

### Homes and Communities Agency: Assets

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 175-76W, on the Homes and Communities Agency, when and at what cost each of the negative valued assets held by the Homes and Communities Agency was acquired; [306906]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 175-76W, on the Homes and Communities Agency, what negative valued assets are held by the Homes and Communities Agency; [306908]

(3) which of the negatively valued property interests owned by the Homes and Communities Agency are related to *(a)* lease or leaseback interests, *(b)* rental guarantees and *(c)* assets where disengagement is dependent upon expenditure which exceeds the amount expected to be realised through future asset sales. [307139]

**John Healey:** Negative value assets are held in Bristol (1), Gloucester (1), Winchester (1), Milton Keynes (4), Peterborough (1), and Trafford Park, Manchester (1).

Of these, three were included as part of the 82 redundant hospital sites purchased by the Urban Regeneration Agency, one of the HCA's predecessor bodies, during the 2006 financial year. The total liability associated with the three assets was £1.8 million.

The remaining six properties were originally taken on by the Commission for the New Towns, another of the HCA's predecessor bodies. Four of these were taken on over 10 years ago, and it is not possible to find the cost of acquiring these assets other than at disproportionate cost. Of the remaining two sites, one was taken on in 2004 for £19,000, and one in 2005. In the 2005 case, the rental guarantee of £49,000 only applied from 2009.

Of the nine property interests with negative assets, eight are in relation to rental liabilities existing on leasehold properties i.e. "lease or leaseback interests", and one is a rental guarantee. The HCA does not hold any asset where disengagement is dependent upon investment, the cost of which exceeds the value to be realised through future asset sales.

### Housing

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect on housing waiting lists of the recession. [306365]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** As at 1 April 2009 there were 1.76 million households on housing waiting lists in England. The number was 1.77 million in April 2008.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of new completed dwellings in England were flats in each year since 1997. [307074]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Figures on the proportion of new-build dwellings completed each year since 1997 that were flats are given in live table 254 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table254.xls

### Housing: Autism

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take under the Adult Autism Strategy to meet the housing needs of people with autism. [306287]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** CLG is working with the Department of Health to consider the housing needs of people with autism.

People with autism may have their housing needs met by the Supporting People programme which provides revenue funds for local authorities to commission housing related support services for vulnerable people in their area, to enable them to develop independent living skills. However, the programme is a locally delivered and managed programme and it is for each local authority to allocate the available resource based on local needs and priorities.

Public service agreement target 16 sets out the Government's aim that the most vulnerable adults are offered the chance to get back on a path to a more successful life by increasing the proportion of socially excluded adults in settled accommodation and in employment, education or training. CLG lead on the settled accommodation aspect of the PSA and the PSA 16 client group will include people with autism who are assessed as having a moderate to severe learning disability, or receiving secondary mental health services.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which section of his Department is responsible for implementation of the Autism Strategy in relation to housing. [306280]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Housing Management and Support Directorate is responsible for the housing aspect of the Adult Autism Strategy.

### Housing: Elderly

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will develop a national strategy for retirement housing. [306271]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Government published their strategy for housing in an ageing society 'Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods' in February 2008, which sets out our strategy for all types of housing, including specialised housing for older people, such as retirement housing.

One of the commitments in the 2008 strategy was to commission an innovation panel to look at the future of specialised housing for older people. This panel published its report 'HAPPI-Housing our Ageing Population: Panel for Innovation' last week, and we will be considering how the recommendations in the report can support the ongoing implementation of 'Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods'.

### Housing: Energy

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of *(a)* owner occupiers, *(b)* social tenants and *(c)* private tenants spent (i) between zero and three per cent., (ii) from four to six per cent., (iii) from seven to nine per cent. and (iv) 10 per cent. or more of their total household expenditure on electricity, gas and other fuels in each of the last three years. [307210]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The following table provides estimates of the number and proportion of owner occupiers, social renters and private renters spending the requested proportions of their disposable income on electricity, gas and other fuels in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. These estimates are based on data from the Office for National Statistics Expenditure and Food Survey.

*Household expenditure on electricity, gas and other fuels, England, 2005-06 to 2007-08*

*All households*

| *Proportion of disposable income spent on fuels* | *Owner occupiers* 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | *Social renters* 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | *Private renters* 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Thousand* | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-3% | 9,288 | 8,453 | 7,903 | 1,976 | 1,760 | 1,676 | 1,493 | 1,480 | 1,524 |
| 4-6% | 3,527 | 4,188 | 4,297 | 869 | 982 | 1,136 | 440 | 467 | 718 |
| 7-9% | 1,004 | 1,232 | 1,266 | 448 | 536 | 441 | 175 | 234 | 216 |
| 10% or more | 780 | 991 | 1,061 | 541 | 530 | 616 | 251 | 246 | 277 |
| All | 14,599 | 14,864 | 14,527 | 3,834 | 3,808 | 3,869 | 2,359 | 2,427 | 2,735 |
| *Percentage* | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-3% | 64 | 57 | 54 | 52 | 46 | 43 | 63 | 61 | 56 |
| 4-6% | 24 | 28 | 30 | 23 | 26 | 29 | 19 | 19 | 26 |
| 7-9% | 7 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 14 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 8 |
| 10% or more | 5 | 7 | 7 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 11 | 10 | 10 |
| All | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source:
Expenditure and Food Survey

### Housing: Floods

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of households displaced by flooding that have not been able to return to their homes following each incident of flooding in the last three years. [305231]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** We do not keep information centrally on all flooding events as most are dealt with at the local level. We did monitor displaced households following the summer 2007 floods. Around 50 per cent. of households displaced by those floods had returned to their homes after six months. Around 80 per cent. had returned within 12 months and around 99 per cent. within 24 months.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance his Department provides to homeowners whose homes are flooded but who do not have flood insurance. [305232]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department provides assistance in respect of flooding in exceptional circumstances. Following the summer 2007 floods we made available flood recovery grant of £18.4 million to support the work of the hardest hit local authorities in helping those people in their communities in greatest need, whether insured or not. In addition, in July 2008, £30.6 million was allocated under the Restoration Fund to support their continued efforts to rebuild their communities.

Local authorities had flexibility to decide how best to use these funds based on their own local circumstances.

On 20 November, we announced that a Community Recovery Fund of £1 million would be made available to local authorities affected by the Cumbria flooding. Again this is for local authorities to support those people in their communities in greatest need, whether insured or not, and local authorities will have flexibility in how they can use the fund.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) administers social fund crisis loans and community care grants, which provide help for the most vulnerable people with essential needs in an emergency. Crisis loans are intended for people on benefits or low income, and community care grants can only be used to help people on income-related benefits with little or no access to capital or other resources to meet the need.

Social fund crisis loans can be paid to people in work in circumstances such as these, where they are victims of a disaster and in need of immediate help.

### Housing: Lighting

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he has given to the requirement for the output of domestic light bulbs to be measured in lumens; and whether the listing of an equivalent luminance in watts in addition to lumens would be permitted. [305934]

**Dan Norris:** I have been asked to reply.

From September 2010, EU Regulation 244/2009 under the Eco-design for Energy-using Products Directive will require manufacturers to label packaging with the lumen output of a lamp, in addition to the nominal lamp power (in Watts).

The lumen output will be required to be written in a font twice the size of the nominal power.

### Housing: Prices

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the house price affordability ratio for households on *(a)* lower quintile and *(b)* median earnings was in each local authority area for the most recent quarter available. [305039]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Communities and Local Government does not hold household earnings data down to local authority level. Therefore we are unable to derive house price affordability ratios based on household earnings.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average house price was in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [305225]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Data showing average (mean and median) house price in each local authority in each year since 2007 are available on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-585.xls

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-586.xls

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the ratio of lower quintile house prices to lower quintile earnings was in each year since 1997. [306413]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 71-72W, to the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps).

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 305W, on housing: prices, what the average sale price of a home in a rural area was in each region in each year since 1997 in 2009-10 prices. [306909]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The average sale price of a home in a rural area in each region at 2008 constant prices in each year since 1997 is presented as follows:

| | *East* | *East Midlands* | *London* | *North East* | *North West* | *South East* | *South West* | *West Midlands* | *Yorkshire and the Humber* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 107,437 | 89,621 | n/a | 77,875 | 99,463 | 142,458 | 111,339 | 107,251 | 85,342 |
| 1998 | 114,441 | 93,022 | n/a | 76,020 | 101,030 | 154,679 | 117,681 | 111,782 | 84,352 |
| 1999 | 124,937 | 99,644 | n/a | 81,445 | 106,974 | 170,908 | 129,314 | 120,810 | 88,035 |
| 2000 | 139,890 | 106,538 | n/a | 81,848 | 111,902 | 196,075 | 146,245 | 129,034 | 91,259 |
| 2001 | 155,994 | 116,183 | n/a | 83,993 | 121,275 | 211,826 | 160,865 | 142,541 | 96,842 |
| 2002 | 184,406 | 137,116 | n/a | 94,321 | 137,090 | 239,296 | 189,328 | 166,628 | 113,323 |
| 2003 | 205,980 | 162,931 | n/a | 111,706 | 159,710 | 261,644 | 216,438 | 189,009 | 135,749 |
| 2004 | 221,536 | 180,591 | n/a | 135,430 | 186,542 | 277,668 | 236,833 | 210,901 | 162,349 |
| 2005 | 227,703 | 187,011 | n/a | 145,344 | 192,407 | 279,585 | 238,220 | 214,706 | 169,678 |
| 2006 | 233,404 | 188,657 | n/a | 151,110 | 199,364 | 290,583 | 243,213 | 219,904 | 176,849 |
| 2007 | 239,819 | 191,829 | n/a | 150,707 | 205,262 | 301,810 | 254,397 | 220,604 | 178,803 |
| 2008 | 227,682 | 179,643 | n/a | 146,057 | 196,094 | 291,108 | 239,038 | 210,432 | 170,405 |

*Note:*

Prices have been adjusted for inflation using the Office for National Statistics Retail Price Index.

*Source:*

Land Registry. Local authorities that are classed as rural under the Department rural codes have been included and local authorities classed as urban by DEFRA have been filtered out.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 305W, on housing: prices, what the average sale price of a home in a rural area was in each region in *(a)* each year since 1997 and *(b)* each of the last 20 quarters. [306910]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The average sale price of a home in a rural area in each region in *(a)* each year since 1997 and *(b)* each of the last 20 quarters is given as follows.

*(a) Average sale price of a rural home by region for each year since 1997*

£

| | *East* | *East Midlands* | *London* | *North East* | *North West* | *South East* | *South West* | *West Midlands* | *Yorkshire and the Humber* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 78,777 | 65,714 | n/a | 57,101 | 72,931 | 104,456 | 81,638 | 78,641 | 62,576 |
| 1998 | 86,790 | 70,546 | n/a | 57,652 | 76,619 | 117,306 | 89,247 | 84,773 | 63,971 |
| 1999 | 96,204 | 76,728 | n/a | 62,714 | 82,372 | 131,602 | 99,574 | 93,026 | 67,789 |
| 2000 | 110,909 | 84,466 | n/a | 64,891 | 88,720 | 155,454 | 115,948 | 102,302 | 72,353 |
| 2001 | 125,856 | 93,736 | n/a | 67,765 | 97,844 | 170,901 | 129,785 | 115,002 | 78,132 |
| 2002 | 151,268 | 112,476 | n/a | 77,371 | 112,454 | 196,294 | 155,306 | 136,684 | 92,959 |
| 2003 | 173,856 | 137,520 | n/a | 94,285 | 134,802 | 220,838 | 182,683 | 159,531 | 114,577 |
| 2004 | 192,555 | 156,966 | n/a | 117,713 | 162,139 | 241,344 | 205,851 | 183,311 | 141,110 |
| 2005 | 203,533 | 167,161 | n/a | 129,917 | 171,984 | 249,909 | 212,934 | 191,916 | 151,668 |
| 2006 | 215,258 | 173,989 | n/a | 139,362 | 183,864 | 267,991 | 224,304 | 202,808 | 163,099 |
| 2007 | 230,664 | 184,506 | n/a | 144,954 | 197,426 | 290,289 | 244,685 | 212,182 | 171,977 |
| 2008 | 227,682 | 179,643 | n/a | 146,057 | 196,094 | 291,108 | 239,038 | 210,432 | 170,405 |

*Source:*

Land Registry. Local authorities that are classed as rural under the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs rural codes have been included and local authorities classed as urban by DEFRA have been filtered out.

*(b) Average sale price of a rural home by region for each of the last 20 quarters*

£

| | *East* | *East Midlands* | *London* | *North East* | *North West* | *South East* | *South West* | *West Midlands* | *Yorkshire and the Humber* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 Q3 | 201,403 | 165,275 | n/a | 124,852 | 172,499 | 254,777 | 217,987 | 194,413 | 150,247 |
| 2004 Q4 | 200,287 | 164,999 | n/a | 127,589 | 168,853 | 247,273 | 213,216 | 190,441 | 146,737 |
| 2005 Q1 | 198,655 | 163,653 | n/a | 121,321 | 165,270 | 243,341 | 209,892 | 187,410 | 144,221 |
| 2005 Q2 | 198,979 | 164,224 | n/a | 125,629 | 170,227 | 244,044 | 208,012 | 189,632 | 147,101 |
| 2005 Q3 | 208,001 | 170,096 | n/a | 132,190 | 176,047 | 257,993 | 218,430 | 195,884 | 155,148 |
| 2005 Q4 | 205,831 | 168,947 | n/a | 136,560 | 173,282 | 250,602 | 213,238 | 192,808 | 156,883 |
| 2006 Q1 | 202,820 | 163,427 | n/a | 129,269 | 171,726 | 250,301 | 210,681 | 190,580 | 152,807 |
| 2006 Q2 | 209,807 | 173,390 | n/a | 138,928 | 182,122 | 260,904 | 218,772 | 199,413 | 161,460 |
| 2006 Q3 | 223,501 | 178,634 | n/a | 143,697 | 191,254 | 280,295 | 231,620 | 210,529 | 167,446 |
| 2006 Q4 | 220,650 | 177,396 | n/a | 142,582 | 186,646 | 273,804 | 230,904 | 206,983 | 167,528 |
| 2007 Q1 | 221,875 | 176,712 | n/a | 137,480 | 188,534 | 273,962 | 232,936 | 201,877 | 162,346 |
| 2007 Q2 | 225,685 | 183,677 | n/a | 141,859 | 193,885 | 282,244 | 238,355 | 208,782 | 170,420 |
| 2007 Q3 | 238,879 | 189,427 | n/a | 149,326 | 204,441 | 304,244 | 255,927 | 219,738 | 178,778 |
| 2007 Q4 | 234,980 | 187,330 | n/a | 150,279 | 201,278 | 297,867 | 249,325 | 217,137 | 175,379 |
| 2008 Q1 | 232,201 | 181,992 | n/a | 144,810 | 198,520 | 291,948 | 240,071 | 210,476 | 168,071 |
| 2008 Q2 | 229,650 | 179,847 | n/a | 147,854 | 193,347 | 291,508 | 239,604 | 211,064 | 173,560 |
| 2008 Q3 | 234,433 | 184,482 | n/a | 152,222 | 204,143 | 305,653 | 247,314 | 216,608 | 173,501 |
| 2008 Q4 | 211,467 | 170,959 | n/a | 137,585 | 187,229 | 272,499 | 227,352 | 202,153 | 165,139 |
| 2009 Q1 | 205,144 | 162,775 | n/a | 130,340 | 176,118 | 251,756 | 213,573 | 189,049 | 150,704 |
| 2009 Q2 | 205,707 | 166,121 | n/a | 135,332 | 178,246 | 259,753 | 218,146 | 191,556 | 156,380 |

*Source:*

Land Registry. Local authorities that are classed as rural under the DEFRA rural codes have been included and local authorities classed as urban by DEFRA have been filtered out. Data for 2009 Q2 are provisional.

## Housing: Research

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when the report of research undertaken by Heriot Watt University into housing supply and future housing need was presented to his Department; and when he expects the report to be published; [305042]

(2) how much his Department has paid to Heriot-Watt University to undertake its research into housing supply and future housing need. [305043]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department received a first draft report of the housing need research commissioned from Heriot-Watt University in October 2009. The report will be finalised after academic peer review. A publication timetable has not yet been fixed.

The cost of this research project is expected to be £163,256. To date, the Department has paid Heriot-Watt University £146,458.

### Housing: Sprinkler Systems

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the merits of installing sprinklers in new build *(a)* homes and *(b)* flats. [307069]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The use of sprinklers and other fire suppression technologies in dwellings was considered in the review that led to the 2006 revision of Approved Document B. This document provides guidance on compliance with Part B (Fire safety) of the Building Regulations. The extensive review that preceded the development of this new guidance considered a four year research project looking at the issue from both an effectiveness and cost/benefit perspective.

Sprinklers have been shown to be an effective measure in reducing fire deaths. However, the review, which included public consultation, concluded that it would not be cost-effective to provide sprinklers in all new homes but that it would be reasonable to provide them in blocks of flats over 30 metres in height where the risks were shown to be greater. A provision to this effect was, therefore, included in the revised Approved Document.

### Housing: Standards

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the cost of refurbishing an average home to meet the lifetime homes standard. [306396]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** In "The Future of the Code for Sustainable Homes—Making a Rating Mandatory", page 51 para. 3.3 sets out the range of costs for building to the Lifetime Homes Standard as being between £545 and £1,615. Revised costs are included in the impact assessment supporting the forthcoming consultation on the Code for Sustainable Homes which will be published shortly.

### Local Government

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 7 December 2009, what other sources of data will be used to produce the report on the nation's civic health; which Department has lead responsibility for that report; what the budget is for that programme; and whether he plans to commission new research for that report. [306754]

**Barbara Follett:** The full list of data sources for the civic health report is still under consideration by the Department for Communities and Local Government (which has lead responsibility for its production). The budget for the programme is dependent on the exact nature of the report and is consequently undetermined at this stage. Nonetheless, the report will not require the collection of new data and so should prove relatively inexpensive to compile.

### Local Government Finance

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what new burdens placed on local authorities since the adoption of the New Burdens principle have not resulted in associated compensation for councils. [305939]

**Barbara Follett:** The Government are committed to ensuring that all new burdens falling on local authorities are fully and properly funded so that there is no upward pressure on council tax bills. Where appropriate, funding is provided through the formula grant system or through specific grants.

### Local Government Finance: Emergency Services

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the assumed share of the council tax base for the purposes of the local government finance settlement was for *(a)* police services and *(b)* fire and rescue services in each year since 1997-98. [307084]

**Barbara Follett:** The following table shows the share of council tax base used in calculating an authority's share of formula grant for each of the four tiers of authorities from 1997-98 to date.

| | *Share of council tax base* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Upper-tier services* | *Police services* | *Fire and rescue services* | *Lower-tier services* |
| 1997-98 | 0.758669681 | 0.080168570 | 0.032113754 | 0.129047995 |
| 1998-99 | 0.766520068 | 0.076204156 | 0.031550096 | 0.125725680 |
| 1999-2000 | 0.768727795 | 0.075652314 | 0.031170922 | 0.124448969 |
| 2000-01 | 0.772332753 | 0.074372718 | 0.030934777 | 0.122359752 |
| 2001-02 | 0.769879048 | 0.075528659 | 0.031166794 | 0.123425499 |
| 2002-03 | 0.766842457 | 0.074921464 | 0.031854515 | 0.126381564 |
| 2003-04 | 0.70233379 | 0.08491934 | 0.03773994 | 0.17500693 |
| 2004-05 | 0.7040995 | 0.0876150 | 0.0367455 | 0.1715400 |
| 2005-06 | 0.7127738 | 0.0863271 | 0.0358011 | 0.1650980 |
| 2006-07 | 0.72103328 | 0.08672247 | 0.03378238 | 0.15846187 |
| 2007-08 | 0.72012056 | 0.08707602 | 0.03432392 | 0.15847951 |
| 2008-09 | 0.701408590 | 0.094044500 | 0.036637434 | 0.167909476 |
| 2009-10 | 0.711867721 | 0.091344847 | 0.034972733 | 0.161814699 |
| 2010-11 | 0.722079958 | 0.088692078 | 0.033356743 | 0.155871221 |

During the period 1997-98 to 2002-03, the shares of council tax base were set on the basis of national shares of total standard spending assessments for the services that each provides, using the control totals set out in annexe E of the Local Government Finance Report (England) for that year.

In addition, during the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000, the figures for inner London boroughs and the receiver for the Metropolitan police district were adjusted to allow for expenditure on probation and magistrates courts.

From 2003-04 onwards, the shares of council tax base have been set so that the percentage increase in grant for each damping group of authorities is broadly proportional to the underlying percentage increase in formula spending share/relative needs formula for that group. In 2003-04, the resulting shares for shire county councils and shire district councils in two-tier areas were adjusted to reflect in part the combined impact of raising the assumed national council tax from about £769.16 for 2002-03 to about £1,037.46 for 2003-04 on the distribution of council tax income for these two groups of authorities are taken together.

### Local Government Services: Elderly

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 972W, on local government services: elderly, how much funding from each programme budget will be drawn from the reprioritised central budgets; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the *(a)* efficiency savings and *(b)* funds released by reprioritisation by local authorities. [306558]

**Barbara Follett:** The commitment to offer free personal care at home to those with highest needs is expected to cost up to £670 million in a full year. The Government, through the Department of Health, will provide the bulk of this funding (£420 million in a full year). The Government believe that it is right that councils play their part alongside central Government to help deliver the free personal care commitment and to contribute £250 million in a full year to the cost, through efficiencies and reprioritisation. It is for councils themselves to make decisions on how to deliver those further savings.

### Local Government: Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many requests were received by local authorities under the Freedom of Information Act in each of the last five years; and how many requests to local authorities under the Freedom of Information Act were responded to within 20 days in each such year. [306052]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Local Government: Standards

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mailings and communications the Audit Commission has sent to prospective parliamentary candidates about comprehensive area assessment in the last 12 months; and for what purposes. [305925]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 14 December 2009:*

The Audit Commission sent an email to prospective parliamentary candidates of all parties on 18 November 2009. The email advised them of information about their local authority areas to be published on the new Oneplace website on 9 December 2009 and gave them the url of sample web pages.

The message noted the interest that their prospective constituents might take in impartial assessments of services and quality of life in local areas. The Commission's Managing Director, Communication and Public Reporting, sent a further email to prospective candidates on 9 December 2009 informing them that the Oneplace website was up and running and giving them its web address.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

### Mortgages

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many holders of buy-to-let mortgages in each region have defaulted on their mortgage repayments in each of the last 10 quarters. [305561]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Council of Mortgage Lenders collects and publishes data on the numbers of buy-to-let mortgages that are in arrears. However these data are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

### Mortgages: Government Assistance

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in *(a)* Ashford constituency and *(b)* Kent have taken up the Homeowners Mortgage Protection Scheme. [304928]

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households have received financial support under the *(a)* Mortgage Rescue Scheme and *(b)* Mortgage Homeowner Support Scheme in each local authority to date. [305937]

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in Preseli Pembrokeshire constituency have received assistance through the Mortgage Protection Scheme. [306653]

**John Healey:** We have acted rapidly in conjunction with lenders and money advice agencies to put in place a range of help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage, and launched a campaign to ensure households have clear information about the help available. Most borrowers experiencing difficulties are able to agree a solution with their lender. In addition, the Government schemes provide a valuable backstop for those people who need further support. Over the last year over 330,000 homeowners have received help and advice with their mortgage.

Financial Services Authority figures show that in quarter 2 of this year 135,000 households were benefiting from an arrangement agreed with their lender, an increase of 74 per cent. on the previous year.

The proportion of the mortgage market now committed to offering the Government-backed scheme or similarly extended forbearance without the need for

Government guarantee is now more than 90 per cent. UK wide management information collected from these lenders and money advice agencies shows:

> Over 33,000 loans were benefiting from extended forbearance where lenders were accepting less than contractual monthly payments or where loans had been modified to make monthly payments more affordable for the borrower;
>
> 6,000 of these loans were deferring interest as part of an arrangement equivalent to the Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme, and only 15 have so far needed the formal backstop of HMS and have been registered for the Government-backed guarantee following the five-month qualification period.

Mortgage Rescue Scheme summary monitoring statistics are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website. Figures can be accessed using the following link:

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

Quarterly figures reported by local authorities from January to September 2009 are provided in a table which has been placed in the Library.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by his Department on *(a)* the set up and ongoing costs of the Mortgage Help website and *(b)* publicity for the initiative since its launch. [307147]

**John Healey:** The Mortgage Help website and accompanying publicity campaign are both ongoing projects, costs for which are not yet finalised.

The Department will publish detailed annual costs for these activities, and other communications expenditure, as is established practice at the time of its next Annual Report.

### Multiple Occupation

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many indicators and datasets councils must submit to his Department as part of the Register of Licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation regime; with what frequency; and for what reasons those data are not included in the National Indicator set. [305927]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Register of Licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation collects 31 data items in one dataset. Local authorities are asked to provide data once a quarter. These data are collected to monitor the 2004 Housing Act and were not intended to be part of the National Indicator set.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Fire Services

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been paid in empty property business rates in respect of each regional fire control room liable for such rates. [303478]

**Mr. Malik:** The North West Regional Control Centre (RCC) has paid £47,808.73 in business rates and the South East RCC has paid £3,939.54.

No other business rates have been paid.

### Ordnance Survey

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to revise Ordnance Survey's Business Strategy published on 23 April 2009 with reference to the announcement of 17 November 2009 on access to Ordnance Survey data. [306348]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The purpose of the forthcoming consultation is to hear feedback on the most appropriate future business strategy for Ordnance Survey in order to deliver access to certain geographic information for free re-use.

### Recycling

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities are making facilities available for the recycling of Christmas trees in 2009. [305564]

**Dan Norris:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs does not hold the information requested. The Government believe local authorities are better placed to make decisions on the best waste management strategy for their local area, so we do not direct or interfere in the decisions they make. This includes the facilities local authorities make available for recycling Christmas trees. It does however, encourage local authorities to consult extensively with residents, to ensure their opinions and preferences are taken into consideration.

### Regional Planning and Development

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect of the removal of the needs test in planning guidance on levels of out-of-town development. [306388]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Annexe A to the impact assessment of the draft Proposed Changes to Planning Policy Statement 6: "Planning for Town Centres", which we published for consultation in July 2008, sets out our assessment of the effects of removal of the need test on levels of out-of-town development.

### Regional Planning and Development: Finance

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much public funding the regional assemblies and their successor bodies will receive in 2010-11. [306389]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** We are still awaiting business plans from regional assemblies and successor bodies which will set out their funding requirements for 2010-11. However, we have said that overall resources need to be reduced in 2010-11 compared to 2009-10.

### Rented Housing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many right to manage companies exercised their right to take over the management of properties in each year since the implementation of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002. [307138]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Communities and Local Government does not hold information on the number of RTM companies that have registered as a company and have gone on to acquire the right to manage, or information in respect of yearly breakdowns since implementation of the right to manage in October 2003.

### Repossession Orders: Rural Areas

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in rural areas were repossessed in each year since 1997. [305062]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department does not collect information on mortgage possessions and arrears although information for the United Kingdom as a whole is published separately by the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). These are not split by whether the mortgage was for a home in a rural area or not.

### Sheltered Housing

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to ensure that sheltered housing residents are consulted on any changes proposed by service providers; what sanctions are available to his Department in respect of service providers who do not consult residents prior to taking decisions on changes to service provision; and if he will make a statement. [305992]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Changes to services provided under the Supporting People programme, including in sheltered housing, are a matter for the individual local authority concerned. However we have made clear that any changes should only be implemented after meaningful consultation with residents.

CLG does not impose sanctions on providers of services as it is local authorities which have a contract with providers, not CLG. However, CLG have developed a framework, called the quality assessment framework (QAF) whereby authorities are able to measure the standard of the services which are being delivered to service users. To meet the necessary standard the service must take account of service user views.

In response to concerns raised about changes to sheltered housing services, Lord McKenzie chairs a ministerial working group which will produce guidance to providers and commissioners on consultation and engagement with residents, and a complaints guide to make residents more aware of how best to raise concerns they may have.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will instruct local authorities to provide residential wardens for sheltered housing schemes in circumstances in which existing residents signed tenancy agreements on the understanding that such wardens would be provided. [306272]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The provision of residential wardens in sheltered housing schemes is a matter for local authorities. Local authorities determine what services to provide, including the provision of resident wardens in sheltered accommodation, based on local needs and priorities.

### Social Rented Housing: Asbestos

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will require the owners of social housing to inform residents of such housing of the presence of asbestos in their housing and its communal areas. [305566]

**Mr. Ian Austin** *[holding answer 9 December 2009]*: Guidance published by the Health and Safety Executive states that in the case of the common parts of domestic premises such as lift and stair spaces in flats, there is a duty placed on those with maintenance and repair responsibilities to provide information on the location and condition of the material to anyone who is liable to work on it or disturb it.

### Social Rented Housing: Insurance

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on reviewing his Department's guidance Insurance for All: A good practice guide for providers of social housing. [305073]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The document 'Insurance for All: a good practice guide for providers of social housing' was published by the Housing Corporation in April 2001. Revision of the document was one of four recommendations on insurance in Sir Michael Pitt's review of the summer of 2007 floods which the Government accepted.

Six-monthly reports on the progress of the recommendations accepted by the Government are available on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/risk/floodreview2007.htm

The latest report is currently being finalised and will be published shortly.

### Social Rented Housing: Property Transfer

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of housing transfers within housing associations in South East London. [304998]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department has not made any estimate of the number of housing transfers within housing associations. However, the following table lists those local authorities in south-east London who since 1997 have transferred all or part of their housing stock to registered social landlords under a large scale voluntary transfer programme.

| *Local authority* | *Date of transfer* | *Registered social landlord* |
|---|---|---|
| LB Bexley | 9 February 1998 | Orbit Bexley |
| LB Bexley | 9 February 1998 | London and Quadrant |

| *Local authority* | *Date of transfer* | *Registered social landlord* |
|---|---|---|
| LB Greenwich (Charlton Triangle) | 29 March 1999 | Charlton Triangle Homes Limited |
| LB Lewisham (Phoenix) | 3 December 2007 | Phoenix Community Housing Ltd. |
| LB Lewisham (Grove Park) | 7 July 2008 | London and Quadrant Housing Trust |
| LB Lewisham (Lee) | 12 October 2009 | Broomleigh |

### Social Rented Housing: Waiting Lists

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will rank local authorities in England by the number of applicants on their waiting lists for social housing *(a)* on 2 December 2009, *(b)* in April 2009, *(c)* in 2008 and *(d)* in 2007; how many such applicants there were on each such waiting list in each case; and if he will make a statement. [304777]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information is available on numbers of households rather than applicants. The number of households on the local authority housing waiting list is collected on the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) as at 1 April each year.

Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the RSL will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists.

A table has been placed in the House Library ranking the number of households on the local authority waiting lists for each local authority in England as at 1 April each year for 2007, 2008 and 2009.

### Supporting People Programme

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to promote best practice by local authorities in the provision of services under the Supporting People programme. [305989]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** CLG has developed a Supporting People Quality Assessment framework (QAF) and a Supporting People Outcomes framework. The QAF enables local authorities to measure the standard of the services which are being delivered to service users and the Outcomes Framework shows the benefits attained by individuals of using the services. CLG will continue to promote the use of both the QAF and Outcomes Framework in the procurement and delivery of Supporting People services.

In addition CLG have convened a Supporting People Transition Board to support the sector, including local authorities, to deliver the Supporting People programme in an un-ringfenced environment.

### Tenancy Deposit Schemes

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the financial stability of tenancy deposit schemes. [307079]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The three tenancy deposit protection schemes are operated by private companies and are self-financing. Communities and Local Government monitors all three schemes and holds regular contract governance meetings with the scheme providers.

### Tenant Services Authority: Manpower

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff will be directly employed by the Tenant Services Authority; and what the estimated number is of staff who will conduct inspections for the authority without being employed by it. [306409]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The number of staff directly employed by the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) is set out in their annual report and accounts which was laid in Parliament on 5 November 2009.

### Travelling People: Republic of Ireland

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the rate of migration of Travellers to the United Kingdom from the Republic of Ireland; and whether any assessment has been made of the effect of the new criminal trespass laws in the Republic in affecting migration patterns. [305942]

**Mr. Malik:** A "common travel area" is in place between the United Kingdom and Ireland, and therefore no record is kept of the movement of particular ethnic groups between the two countries.

Communities and Local Government publishes data twice yearly on the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England. Recent data do not indicate any unexpected increases in the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans.

### Valuation: Tribunals

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many disputes relating to *(a)* service charges and *(b)* TV aerial digital switchover were dealt with by the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal service in (A) each of the last three years and (B) 2009 to date; [307136]

(2) how many long leases were varied by the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal service under the terms of Part IV of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987 in each of the last 10 years; [307137]

(3) how many disputes of each category were dealt with by the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal service in each of the last three years. [307140]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The information is as follows:

*Cases dealt with by the Residential Property Tribunal Service 2006-09*

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fair rents | 2,173 | 1,993 | 1,847 | 1,856 |
| Market rents | 916 | 859 | 936 | 1,007 |
| Leasehold enfranchisement and lease extension | 3,000 | 3,352 | 3,032 | 2,177 |
| Service charges etc. | 1,848 | 1,715 | 2,141 | 2,884 |
| Right to buy appeals | 142 | 75 | 45 | 29 |
| Housing Act 2004 cases | 49 | 206 | 248 | 241 |

*Cases dealt with by the Residential Property Tribunal Service 2006-09*

| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Others | 33 | 27 | 32 | 24 |
| Total | 8,161 | 8,227 | 8,281 | 8,218 |

[1] Projected.

*Notes:*

1. 'Fair rents' cases are those involving regulated tenancies under the Rent Act 1977.
2. 'Market rent' cases are those involving assured and assured shorthold tenancies established under the Housing Act 1988.
3. 'Right to buy appeals' are determinations made by residential property tribunals as to the suitability of housing for occupation by the elderly.
4. 'Housing Act 2004' cases relate to those powers given to residential property tribunals in respect of the Housing, Health & Safety Rating System, management orders under the Act and the licensing of houses in multiple occupation.

Projected totals for 2009 are based on actual figures for the first 10 months of the year, extrapolated to 12 month totals.

The information sought on how many long leases were varied by the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal service under the terms of Part IV of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987 in each of the last 10 years, which is only held from 30 September 2003 when jurisdiction was transferred from the courts to Leasehold Valuation Tribunals, is not immediately available.

I will write to the hon. Member as soon as this information becomes available.

The number of disputes dealt with by Leasehold Valuation Tribunals relating to service charges in each of the last three years, and 2009 to date, are identified in the above table.

I am aware of one dispute dealt with by the Leasehold Valuation Tribunals in 2009 relating to digital switchover. However, no specific records are kept identifying the disputed components of each individual service charge case dealt with by Leasehold Valuation Tribunals, including disputes relating to TV aerial digital switchover.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Biofuels: Power Stations

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what biomass power stations are *(a)* in operation and *(b)* under construction. [307630]

**Joan Ruddock:** With regard to the number of biomass power stations in operation, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland (Dr. Kumar) on 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 889W.

We do not keep figures centrally for the number of biomass power stations under construction.

### Boilers

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the number of inefficient domestic boilers in *(a)* public and *(b)* private housing; and how long he estimates it will take to replace them under the proposed scrappage scheme. [307622]

**Joan Ruddock:** We estimate that there are about 4.5 million domestic boilers which are "G-rated" or worse. While we do not hold sufficient information to say what percentage are in social housing or private housing stock, an analysis of the English Housing Condition Survey suggests social housing is less likely to contain G-rated boilers, following years of investment under programmes such as Decent Homes. The Greener Boiler Incentive will provide £400 for up to 125,000 homes who seek to replace working G-rated Boilers with more efficient heating technologies. In addition Building Regulations require broken boilers to be replaced with more efficient boilers. Currently 1.5 million boilers a year are replaced.

### Caparo Group

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have met Angad Paul in each of the last three years. [303109]

**Joan Ruddock:** Since the creation of the Department of Energy and Climate Change in October 2008, Ministers and officials have in the course of business met and consulted with a wide variety of public and private sector individuals and organisations.

### Climate Change: International Cooperation

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to seek an agreement to eradicate the use of hydrofluorocarbons in refrigeration and air conditioning systems in his discussions at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. [305883]

**Joan Ruddock:** Together with the EU, the UK is committed to working for an international hydrofluorocarbons emissions reduction arrangement as one of the outcomes of Copenhagen.

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings he plans to hold with non-governmental organisations at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. [307345]

**Joan Ruddock:** At the Copenhagen climate change summit, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I will hold regular meetings with a wide range of non-governmental organisations.

### Climate Change: Publicity

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps the Act on $CO_2$ Campaign has taken to offset the carbon dioxide emissions generated through its activities. [304019]

**Joan Ruddock:** All agencies working on the Act on $CO_2$ campaign are briefed to meet the campaign objectives in a carbon efficient way.

DECC will offset direct $CO_2$ emissions from Act on $CO_2$ campaigns since 2007, specifically transportation and electricity use during advertising shoots and public events.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people have called the Act on $CO_2$ advice line to seek advice on saving money since its inception. [304053]

**Joan Ruddock:** Since its inception in April 2008 until the end of October 2009, 866,866 people have called the Act on $CO_2$ helpline.

### Departmental Buildings

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the energy efficiency rating is for each of his Department's buildings in London. [306321]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Energy Performance Operational Rating for 3 Whitehall Place is 150 on scale F.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band is of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies. [306432]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Energy Performance Operational Rating for 3 Whitehall Place is 150 on scale F. Atholl House is located in Scotland and therefore has no requirement to have an energy rating.

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department since its inception; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305866]

**Joan Ruddock:** This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Domestic Visits

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303487]

**Joan Ruddock:** In the course of his official duties, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has visited Scotland twice and Wales four times in the past 12 months. He has not made an official visit to Northern Ireland during the last 12 months.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305495]

**Joan Ruddock:** Statistics published by the Ministry of Justice on Freedom of Information in central Government for 2008 show that of a total of 45 non-routine requests received by the Department (based on aggregated quarterly data) 64 per cent. (29) received a substantive response within 20 days.

71 per cent. (32) of requests were dealt with 'in time', that is within 20 days by meeting the deadline or other permitted extension deadline.

The statistics can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

and copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what redesigns of websites operated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its predecessors have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such redesign was. [306162]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change was created on 3 October 2008, and its official corporate website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/

was launched on 23 February 2009. There has been no requirement for a redesign since the launch.

There have been redesigns on the following websites that are also administered by the Department of Energy and Climate Change:

http://www.actonco2.direct.gov.uk/actonco2/home.html

(ActOnCO2)

(The website development costs are shared between Department of Transport and DECC. The cost to DECC was £25,820. Completed: October 2009)

http://chp.decc.gov.uk/cms/

(CHP Focus—Combined Heat and Power)

(Cost: £7,500. Completed: Sept 2009)

http://www.chpqa.com/

(Quality assurance for Combined Heat and Power)

(Cost: £7,500. Completed: December 2009)

http://mrws.decc.gov.uk/

(Managing Radioactive Waste Safely)

(Cost: £6,500. Completed: September 2009)

www.planningrenewables.org.uk

(Planning Renewables Website)

(Cost: £46,000. Completed: March 2009)

www.renewables-advisory-board.org.uk

(The Renewables Advisory Board (RAB)

(Cost: £6,000. Completed: August 2007)

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/home

(Low Carbon Building Programme)

(Cost: £15,000. Completed: July 2009)

http://www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk

(Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2)

(Cost: £20,000. Completed: July 2009)

www.bigenergyshift.org.uk

(Big Energy Shift)

(Cost: £68,000. Completed: August 2009)

www.decc.gov.uk/offsetting

The UK Government's Quality Assurance Scheme for Carbon Offsetting)

(Cost: £6,000. Completed: September 2009)

http://www.leos.le.ac.uk/AATSR/

(Advanced Along-Track Scanning Radiometer—University of Leicester science and validation website)

(Cost: £6,300. Completed: September 2009)

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the purposes were of the reception held by his Department on 10 November 2009; how many guests were invited; how many attended; and what the cost was. [303397]

**Joan Ruddock:** The reception was held to support the communication of the UK's objectives in the run up to the UN negotiations on climate change in Copenhagen in December.

158 guests were invited. We do not have a record of the exact number who attended. The cost was £3,122.72.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what payments the Energy Saving Trust has made to Positif Politics Ltd. in the last 12 months; and what *(a)* representations his Department has received from and *(b)* discussions it has had with Positif Politics Ltd. on the Energy Saving Trust in that period. [305434]

**Joan Ruddock:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1627-8 W.

The Energy Saving Trust is a private company limited by guarantee, and details of payments made are therefore a matter for the Trust's Board.

During the last 12 months, DECC has not received any representations from nor engaged in any discussions with Positif Politics Ltd., regarding the Energy Saving Trust.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what payments the Energy Saving Trust has made to Stratagem in the last 12 months; and what *(a)* representations his Department has received from and (b) discussions it has had with Stratagem on the Energy Saving Trust in that period. [305435]

**Joan Ruddock:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1627-8W.

The Energy Saving Trust is a private company limited by guarantee, and details of payments made are therefore a matter for the Trust's Board.

During the last 12 months, DECC has not received any representations from nor engaged in any discussions with Stratagem, regarding the Energy Saving Trust.

### Departmental Publications

**Nigel Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between his Department and the British Geological Survey on the operation of the National Geoscience Data Centre in Gilmerton, Edinburgh. [305808]

**Joan Ruddock:** A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303948]

**Joan Ruddock:** DECC's access control policies are implemented in line with the HMG Security Policy Framework, Mandatory Requirements 56, 57 and 58. The Department does not have the information requested as there is no requirement for the DECC pass system to specifically identify contractors who are providing consultancy services to the Department.

### Departmental Taxis

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessors travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302707]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change was established in 3 October 2008.

Mileage information is not collected when taxi claims are submitted by officials using taxi hire companies. For ministerial taxi travel using the Government Car and Despatch Service where travel mileage is available the distance recorded for the period 3 October 2008 to 31 March 2009 is 915 miles.

The total cost for ministerial and official taxi travel in the period 3 October 2008 to 31 March 2009 was £63,000.

### Departmental Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302727]

**Joan Ruddock:** In the course of his official duties, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State last travelled by taxi on 11 November 2009. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'.

### Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305379]

**Joan Ruddock:** For the period 1 December 2008 to 30 November 2009 357 named day questions were tabled to DECC and of these 104 received substantive answers on the day.

### Energy Supply

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps have been taken in relation to the possibility to exercise the reserve powers provided under the Energy Act 2008 for the Government rather than Ofgem to set the grid access regime. [304470]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Government launched a consultation on options for grid access reform on 25 August 2009, and this closed on 17 November. The consultation document was placed in the House Libraries, and is also available from the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/improving_grid/improving_grid.aspx

We are currently considering responses received to the consultation and will publish a Government Response alongside a further, technical consultation on our preferred option and the changes to industry codes and licences associated with implementation in early 2010. We intend to implement the changes to codes and licences to ensure the regime can take effect from June 2010.

## Energy Supply: Cybercrime

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will consider the merits of bringing forward legislative proposals for a mandatory duty for energy utility companies to report breaches in their cyber-security to Ministers. [302669]

**Mr. Kidney:** Existing good practice is that a cyber security breach resulting in a loss or compromise of customers' details would be reported to the Office of the Information Commissioner. DECC works closely with other areas of Government (notably the Office of Cyber Security (OCS) and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI)) to identify and mitigate vulnerabilities in the national infrastructure that could be exploited by cyber threats, and to share best practice across the critical national infrastructure.

If a cyber security breach impacts an energy utility company's operational capability leading to security of supply concerns, I have existing procedures (including my Department's emergency response plans) and existing powers (including, where appropriate, emergency powers under the Energy Act 1976) to intervene.

## Energy: Conservation

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget is of the Community Energy Saving Programme; and which organisations will coordinate the associated community energy assessors. [307080]

**Joan Ruddock:** We expect the energy companies to deliver around £350 million worth of energy efficiency measures in discharging their obligations under the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP).

The obligated energy companies are responsible for the energy advice delivered under CESP. Such advice must be delivered in accordance with the Electricity and Gas (Community Energy Saving Programme) Order 2009 and Ofgem's supporting CESP guidance.

## Energy: Housing

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Home Heat helpline; and whether his Department collects data on the uptake of home energy support benefits in each constituency. [304682]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Home Heat Helpline is run through the Energy Retail Association and is funded by the energy suppliers. Spend by suppliers on the Home Heat Helpline is reported on and monitored by Ofgem under the voluntary agreement between suppliers and the Government for spending on programmes of social assistance. Ofgem's latest report is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx?docid=263&refer=Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR

The DECC-funded Warm Front scheme, which operates in England only, provides a range of energy saving measures to applicants in receipt of certain passports benefits. Eaga plc, the scheme manager, gathers performance data by region, local authority area and constituency on behalf of the Department.

Fuel poverty is a devolved matter, and devolved Governments collect their own data.

The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) is a GB-wide obligation that requires the big six energy suppliers to report measures installed to the regulator, Ofgem. Measures installed are reported at GB level and no information on where this occurs is currently kept. To address this deficiency, the Government are negotiating a voluntary agreement with the energy suppliers for them to report the installation of measures into the Homes Energy Efficiency Database (HEED) managed by the Energy Saving Trust, and it is hoped to conclude these negotiations shortly.

## Energy: Meters

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK had (i) electricity and (ii) gas pre-payment meters in each of the last 10 years. [303646]

**Mr. Kidney:** Ofgem monitors and publishes information about gas and electricity prepayment customers. However, prepayment data are not collected on a parliamentary constituency or borough council basis. Ofgem published figures for the 10-year period in its Domestic Suppliers Social Obligation 2008 report. The number of customers in Great Britain using prepayment meters was:

*Customers in Great Britain using prepayment meters*

*Million*

| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gas | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 |
| Electricity | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 |

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many domestic energy customers in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area use pre-payment meters. [304492]

**Mr. Kidney:** Ofgem monitors and publishes information about gas and electricity prepayment customers. However, data are not collected on a parliamentary constituency or local authority basis. In June 2009, the last period for which data have been published, the number of customers in Great Britain using prepayment meters was 2,464,377 for gas and 3,698,628 for electricity. In Scotland, the number of customers using prepayment meters was 242,688 for gas and 476,794 for electricity.

### Fuel Poverty

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of households living in fuel poverty in *(a)* Chesterfield constituency, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England. [307167]

**Mr. Kidney:** The most recent available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were around 4,900 fuel poor households in the Chesterfield constituency and around 54,500 fuel poor households in the county of Derbyshire.

More recent figures are available for England. These show that in 2007, there were around 2.8 million fuel poor households in England.

### Gas and Electricity Markets Authority: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what payments Ofgem has made to Finsbury in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract governing those payments. [305065]

**Mr. Kidney:** Ofgem made the following payments to Finsbury for communications related activities:

| *Financial year* | *Total paid (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 29,006.16 |
| 2003-04 | 62,067.47 |
| 2004-05 | 11,308.36 |
| 2005-06 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 0 |
| 2008-09 | 0 |
| 2009-10 | 0 |
| Total | 102,381.99 |

The Department does not hold any information on the commercial contract between Ofgem and Finsbury. I have therefore asked Ofgem's chief executive to write to the hon. Gentleman direct.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets has spent on hotel accommodation for its officials in each of the last five years. [306042]

**Mr. Kidney:** Ofgem does not record specific information on expenditure on hotel accommodation but it does publish annual information on overall travel and subsistence expenditure. Over the last five years, its expenditure on travel and subsistence has been as follows:

| *Period* | *Expenditure (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 504 |
| 2005-06 | 689 |
| 2006-07 | 771 |
| 2007-08 | 603 |
| 2008-09 | 603 |

I have liaised with Ofgem over this reply. As it explains, Ofgem does not record specific information about hotel costs. This reply draws on information published in Ofgem's annual resource account statements which are available through its website.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 24 August 2009 concerning Hydropower in Derbyshire, ref: PM/OP/Hydropower. [307165]

**Joan Ruddock:** My noble colleague Lord Hunt of King's Heath OBE responded on 8 December 2009. Such a delay is obviously unacceptable and my officials have investigated the reasons for the error and are adjusting correspondence handling procedures to prevent this happening again.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department expects to publish its response to the report on energy security by the right hon. Member for Croydon North. [307229]

**Mr. Kidney:** My right hon. Friend the Member for Croydon, North (Malcolm Wicks) has raised a number of important issues which we are studying carefully and the Government will publish a response in due course.

### Official Engagements

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings he has had with the Government's Chief Sustainability Officer in the last 12 months. [304484]

**Joan Ruddock:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular meetings with ministerial colleagues, officials and others.

### Scientists

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many occasions he has met *(a)* the Government chief scientific adviser and *(b)* his Department's chief scientific adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303964]

**Joan Ruddock:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular meetings with ministerial colleagues, officials and others.

## Solar Power

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons his Department ceased to accept applications for funding for photovoltaic projects under phase two of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme on 30 November 2009; and if he will make a statement. [306668]

**Joan Ruddock:** In Budget 2009, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor announced a further £45 million for LCBP to allow for grant funding continuity up to the introduction of Green Energy Cash-backs (feed-in tariffs) on 1 April 2010 and Renewable Heat Incentives (RHIs) on 1 April 2011. Technology 'pots' were created to allow for equitable support for all microgeneration technologies from the LCBP programme.

Following consultation with the industry, an initial 'pot' of £14 million was set for Solar PV under Phase-2 of LCBP. This was subsequently increased to £18 million due to unprecedented demand.

We currently have approximately £5.7 million worth of applications for PV being evaluated under Phase-2 and this will exhaust the total allocation for PV. As a result, we closed LCBP-2 to new PV applications from 1 December 2009 in line with our discussions with industry.

Of the £45 million announced in Budget 2009, we anticipate that we will commit over £19 million to Solar PV.

Phase-1 which provides support for householders remains open to new applications for Solar PV until 31 March 2010.

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he has taken to ensure the continuous availability of funding for solar photovoltaic projects; and if he will make a statement. [306669]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Low Carbon Building Programme (LCBP) will provide continuity of grant provision up until the introduction of Green Energy Cash-backs (FITs) in April 2010 for the Phase-1 (householder stream). The demand for grants for solar photovoltaic technology under the Phase-2 scheme (communities and other not-for-profit organisations) has been unprecedented and we have found it necessary to close that programme to new applications, however we are currently processing a backlog of £5.7 million worth of applications for PV projects.

Grant funding for microgeneration technologies including Solar PV will be available through the recently announced PAYS pilot scheme starting in December 2009 and further grant funding will be available for communities participating in the Low Carbon Communities Challenge. In both these programmes, the choice of technology will be defined by the applicants but will include Solar PV.

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what grant assistance is available for non-domestic users of solar photovoltaic energy. [306670]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Low Carbon Buildings Programme will close to applications for electrical microgeneration, including Solar PV on 31 March 2010 when feed-in tariffs (FITs) will be introduced. Due to unprecedented demand, the Phase-2 scheme (non-domestic) has been closed to new Solar PV applications from 1 December 2009 as we have approximately £5.7 million worth of applications for PV waiting to be processed.

The introduction of FITs in April 2010 will replace the LCBP grant support for electrical generation equipment and is anticipated to further stimulate the market through a tariff mechanism.

Grant funding will be available from the Low Carbon Communities Challenge, the choice of technology will be defined by the applicants but will include Solar PV.

## Warm Front Scheme

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many claimants received assistance under the Warm Front programme in each of the last three years; how many such claimants were not reimbursed for the full cost of work carried out under the Warm Front scheme in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [305701]

**Mr. Kidney:** The number of households assisted under Warm Front in the last three complete years, alongside the number of households who received works whose value was in excess of the grant limit, are as follows:

| | *Assisted households* | *Households asked to contribute* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 253,079 | 35,805 |
| 2007-08 | 268,900 | 59,830 |
| 2008-09 | 233,504 | 51,405 |
| 2009-10 (to 30 November 2009) | 157,111 | 8,466 |

**Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what monitoring process is in place to ensure the quality of work carried out under the Warm Front scheme; and if he will make a statement. [305982]

**Mr. Kidney:** Due to the vulnerable nature of Warm Front applicants, the scheme pays particular attention to maintaining the highest possible standards of safety, quality and customer care. As manager of the scheme, Eaga continually monitors contractor performance using customer satisfaction surveys, with the best performing contractors receiving.

Additionally, upon completion of installation, 100 per cent. of heating and 5 per cent. on insulation installations (chosen randomly) are inspected by experienced independent engineers to ensure the necessary standards are met.

Alongside these measures, the Department has also appointed independent quality assurors, White Young Green, to carry out six-monthly and ad hoc audits of installer performance.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

## Broadband

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of households that have a broadband internet connection in each local authority area. [304041]

**Mr. Timms:** No such estimates have been made.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of households have a broadband internet connection in *(a)* rural areas of England and *(b)* Herefordshire. [304043]

**Mr. Timms:** The Department does not have information on the proportion of households connected to broadband in *(a)* rural areas of England and *(b)* Herefordshire. However, figures from the Ofcom Communications Market Report: English regions of August 2009, indicate that 65 per cent. of households in rural England, and 58 per cent. of households in rural West Midlands, have fixed broadband connections.

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that consumers can access third party provider services via broadband services provided by regulated private companies. [304132]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]:* I understand that the hon. Gentleman is concerned about a specific situation in which he says access to 118 directory inquiries services is restricted by BT through their "Home Hub" broadband product.

BT's Home Hub is a wireless internet router which facilitates a range of services including broadband and a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone capability. BT provides access to their own directory enquiries service (118 500) through the VoIP service and restricts access to other directory inquiries services. This restriction is limited to the Home Hub VoIP service as customers can access other 118 numbers through their normal BT phone, or by prefixing the number with five when using their VoIP phone to access their public switched telephone network line. Users are also free to access 118 services through the internet.

A recent Significant Market Power (SMP) review by Ofcom found that "call origination for Voice over Broadband (VoB) calls is not the same market as wholesale call origination on a narrowband network" and as such, BT are within their rights to restrict access to other directory inquiries services.

Ofcom have recognised that as VoIP/VoB services develop and increase in significance they may need to re-examine their judgment and possibly include VoIP/VoB calls in BT's end to end connectivity obligation. In the mean time, the Department and Ofcom are keen to encourage commercial negotiation between BT and the affected service providers to find a resolution to this ongoing dispute.

### Broadband: South East

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of broadband coverage in *(a)* Lewes constituency, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* the South East. [304277]

**Mr. Timms:** The Department does not hold the information in order to make a recent assessment of the adequacy of broadband coverage in *(a)* Lewes constituency, *(b)* East Sussex and the south-east. However, in its Communications Market Report: English Regions, published in August 2009, Ofcom estimates that in the South East, 99.98 per cent. of households were connected to a DSL-enabled BT exchange and 84 per cent. of households were connected to an unbundled local exchange.

### Business: Eastbourne

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in Eastbourne have received funding under the Regional Loans Transition Fund scheme since the scheme was established. [303746]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Regional Transition Loan Funds were established by the Regional Development Agencies as a time limited measure while national instruments such as the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme were put in place. In the South East England Development Agency region the Transition Fund provides loans of up to £150,000 for small and medium-sized enterprises that are facing liquidity issues arising from the adverse financial credit squeeze. The Transition Fund is financed by SEEDA and managed by Finance South East. One business in Eastbourne has applied for funding under this scheme since it was established. This application was turned down as it did not meet the eligibility criteria. For comparison, in the SEEDA region over the same period, 141 businesses enquired about these loans, 27 businesses were offered funding and 20 have so far received funding, of which two are based in East Sussex. In those circumstances where companies did not meet the criteria a range of advice through the Business Link network has been made available, such as business health checks. Over 95,000 businesses have benefited from this service to date across England, including 17,851 in the South East.

### Business: Government Assistance

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* Government Office region had received funding under the (i) Enterprise Finance Guarantee, (ii) Working Capital, (iii) Trade Credit Insurance Guarantee, (iv) Capital for Enterprise Fund and (v) Automotive Assistance Programme scheme on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [302137]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The reporting structure for each scheme differs in terms of the availability of information at constituency, local authority, and regional levels.

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee is a temporary loan guarantee scheme aimed at facilitating additional bank lending to viable small and medium sized enterprises. Decision-making on individual loans is fully delegated to participating lenders and is done on commercial grounds.

Figures on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee are available at constituency and at local authority level, a copy of which shall be deposited in the Library of the House. For brevity, following are figures for the number and value of loans offered and drawn within each region as of 26 November.

| *Region* | *Number of new loans offered to customer* | *Total value of offered loans (£ million)* | *Number of new loans drawn by customer* | *Total value of drawn loans (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 486 | 52.83 | 416 | 44.24 |
| East of England | 757 | 66.97 | 613 | 54.70 |
| London | 803 | 90.21 | 631 | 70.46 |
| North East | 236 | 22.40 | 190 | 16.76 |
| North West | 717 | 69.35 | 613 | 57.19 |
| South East | 988 | 98.20 | 785 | 77.35 |
| South West | 757 | 68.48 | 641 | 56.36 |
| West Midlands | 620 | 62.08 | 522 | 50.72 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 444 | 45.16 | 367 | 36.35 |
| Wales | 347 | 26.62 | 267 | 19.05 |
| Scotland | 464 | 61.43 | 395 | 54.33 |
| Northern Ireland | 72 | 13.58 | 56 | 10.41 |
| Total UK | 6,691 | 677.29 | 5,496 | 547.93 |

Under the 'Working Capital Scheme', £2 billion of guarantees has been provided to two banks to free up regulatory capital for new lending to UK companies. Companies themselves do not apply for guarantees under the Working Capital Scheme (WCS) and are not aware that their loans are guaranteed under the WCS. No records are kept by parliamentary constituency or region of companies who have loans underpinned by WCS guarantees.

As a result of action by the Government and the regulatory authorities leading to improvements in capital markets since the introduction of the WCS, the Government have been able to allocate resource provision for the WCS to other measures to support businesses.

As of 20 November, 72 suppliers have purchased 'Trade Credit Insurance' under the Government Top-up Scheme, in the following Government offices/constituencies. We do not analyse the information per local authority area:

| *Government Office* | *Constituency* | *Number of suppliers* |
|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | Amber Valley | 1 |
| | Northampton South | 2 |
| East of England | Broxbourne | 1 |
| | Harlow | 1 |
| | Huntingdon | 1 |
| | Luton South | 1 |
| | Saffron Walden | 1 |
| | Welwyn Hatfield | 1 |
| London | Chipping Barnet | 1 |
| | Cities of London and Westminster | 1 |
| | Holborn and St Pancras | 2 |
| North East | Middlesbrough | 1 |
| | Redcar | 1 |
| | Tyne Bridge | 1 |
| North West | Altrincham and Sale West | 1 |
| | Birkenhead | 1 |
| | Bolton South East | 1 |
| | Burnley | 1 |
| | Eccles | 1 |
| | Heywood and Middleton | 1 |
| | Manchester, Blackley | 1 |
| South East | East Hampshire | 1 |
| | Faversham and Mid Kent | 1 |
| | Folkestone and Hythe | 1 |
| | Mole Valley | 1 |
| | North East Milton Keynes | 1 |
| | Reading West | 1 |
| | Richmond Park | 2 |
| | Sutton and Cheam | 1 |
| | Woking | 1 |
| | Wokingham | 1 |
| South West | Bristol West | 1 |
| | Exeter | 1 |
| | North Devon | 1 |
| | Wansdyke | 1 |
| West Midlands | Birmingham, Ladywood | 2 |
| | Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath | 2 |
| | Cannock Chase | 1 |
| | North Warwickshire | 1 |
| | Nuneaton | 1 |
| | South Derbyshire | 1 |
| | Stourbridge | 1 |
| | Telford | 1 |
| | Walsall South | 2 |
| | West Bromwich West | 2 |
| | Wolverhampton Northeast | 1 |
| | Wolverhampton South West | 1 |
| | Wyre Forest | 1 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | Bradford North | 1 |
| | Cleethorpes | 1 |
| | Elmet | 1 |
| | Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle | 1 |
| | Normanton | 1 |

| Government Office | Constituency | Number of suppliers |
|---|---|---|
| | Scunthorpe | 1 |
| | Sheffield, Attercliffe | 1 |
| | Shipley | 1 |
| | Vale of York | 1 |
| Northern Ireland | Belfast South | 1 |
| | East Londonderry | 1 |
| | Mid Ulster | 1 |
| Scotland | Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill | 1 |
| | Ochil and South Perthshire | 1 |
| | Stirling | 1 |
| Wales | Islwyn | 1 |
| | Neath | 1 |
| Total | — | 72 |

As of 26 November, with respect to the £75 million Capital for Enterprise Fund equity scheme, the appointed fund managers have so far made offers totalling £68.2 million to 44 businesses. 11 businesses have accepted the terms of the funding offered with a total value of £17.9 million. The fund managers continue due diligence on these, and the further proposals that have been put forward. Eight businesses have received investment totalling £12.2 million, two based in the East Midlands, one in London, two in Scotland, two in the South East and one in Yorkshire and Humber. I am not providing a breakdown by parliamentary constituency or local authority as this could make it possible to identify the individual companies that have received support.

With regard to the Automotive Assistance Programme, on 18 September 2009, BIS announced the offer of a £10 million loan to Tata Motors European Technical Centre to support £25 million of investment in the Coventry area to develop and manufacture electric vehicles in the UK.

## Climate Change Projects Office

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the aims and objectives are of his Department's Climate Change Projects Office. [304472]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Climate Change Projects Office (CCPO) is the UK Government's primary contact for business involved in the international carbon market (particularly climate change projects under the Kyoto Protocol—Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation projects that generate tradable carbon credits). The CCPO supports and promotes UK private sector involvement in the market. The CCPO is based in the Department for Business and is joint-funded by the Department for Energy and Climate Change. Details about the CCPO's work can be found in the UK CCPO annual report 2008/09, copies of which have been placed in the House Libraries.

## Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department since its inception; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305865]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department does not centrally record details of conferences held overseas attended by civil servants. To obtain this information would require searching through four departmental and IT systems and entail disproportionate costs.

The Department will soon publish details of expenses of senior staff on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills website, overseas conferences attended will be included.

## Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since its inception; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens. [306085]

**Mr. McFadden:** This Department's Estates section has not purchased any plasma screen televisions since its inception in June.

Information is not held centrally for any purchases of plasma screens that may have been made by individual Directorates within the Department.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse was of the review of employee engagement commissioned by his Department and conducted by David MacLeod and Nita Clarke. [304573]

**Mr. McFadden:** The external costs (excluding VAT) associated with conducting the employee engagement review, and with publication of the report in July 2009, were £192,678.

## Electric Cables: Standards

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to protect the public from the risks posed by installation of electrical cables which do not meet approved standards. [304007]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

Where examples of electrical cables which do not meet the recognised approved standards are reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) the matter is investigated by inspectors who enforce, among other supply legislation, the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994 (EESR). Inspectors have the power to prohibit further supply of electrical cables whose foreseeable use represents a risk of serious harm to persons. Where defective products are already in the supply chain action can be taken to require suppliers to warn and advise their customers.

Examples of defective electric cables imported from Asia are currently under investigation. More generally, inspectors will shortly be carrying out an exercise to examine samples of cables in use on construction sites in the UK. Depending on the findings, besides prohibiting the supply and use of any found to be seriously defective, the HSE will propose a wider market surveillance project to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the supply of cables into the industrial and domestic market.

### Energy and Climate Change Unit

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the aims and objectives are of his Department's Energy and Climate Change Unit. [304473]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Low Carbon Business Opportunities Unit and the Energy and Climate Change Unit in BIS have now joined together to form the Low Carbon Business Team. The Low Carbon Business Team aims to capture the economic and industrial opportunities for the UK from the global shift towards a Low Carbon economy and ensure the views of UK business are properly taken into account in the development of policies across Whitehall. They will be working together, taking a strategic approach to ensure industry is in a position to capitalise on business opportunities arising from the transition to a low-carbon economy.

### EU Law

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* statutory instruments and *(b)* other regulations to meet obligations arising from EU law his Department has brought forward in the 2005 Parliament. [304171]

**Mr. McFadden:** Central records of statutory instruments made under specific powers have only been maintained by the statutory instruments registrar since 2001. There are no central records maintained of "other regulations". Since that time the Department and its predecessors have made 235 statutory instruments to meet obligations arising from EU Law, under powers contained in the European Communities Act 1972.

### Freight

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 982W, on freight, if he will break down by mode of transport the number of road freight companies which have *(a)* become insolvent, *(b)* ceased trading for other reasons and *(c)* been started up in each of the last 10 years. [306641]

**Ian Lucas:** Further to the answer of 3 December 2009, in answer to part *(a)*, The Insolvency Service do not currently collect or maintain a record of figures at the level of detail below "Land Transport". The figures provided in the answer of the 3 December are the most detailed available to answer part *(a)*.

At the most detailed level of classification, the "freight transport by road" industry is identifiable. However, it is not possible to distinguish the mode of transport within this standard industrial classification.

Responsibility for statistics relating to business start-ups and closures ("births" and "deaths") has moved from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Tables 1 and 2 record statistics received from the ONS in response to *(b)* and *(c)* above. These represent those figures which are both readily available and most similar in coverage to the figures for insolvencies, but they should not be treated as being entirely consistent and, in particular, the ONS figures will include some businesses that are not registered companies.

*Table 1: (b) Business "deaths"[1] in the land transport industry, England and Wales*

| 6024 | Freight transport by road | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | 3,365 | 3,680 | 3,685 | 3,400 | 3,245 | 3,190 | 3,085 |

*Note:*
The population base includes all those businesses which are registered for VAT and/or PAYE, rather than registered companies.
*Source:*
ONS

*Table 2: (c) Business "births" in the land transport industry, England and Wales*

| 6024 | Freight transport by road | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | 3,195 | 3,375 | 3,240 | 3,275 | 2,825 | 3,195 | 2,985 |

*Note:*
The population base includes all those businesses which are registered for VAT and/or PAYE, rather than registered companies.
*Source:*
ONS

### Higher Education: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from Leeds West constituency *(a)* attended university courses and *(b)* received student loans to attend university courses in each year since 1996-97. [306599]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) on enrolments from Leeds, West parliamentary constituency are shown in the table. Reliable information on student loans received is not available at constituency level.

*Enrolments[1] from Leeds, West parliamentary constituency UK higher education institutions[2] academic years 1996/97 to 2007/08*

| Academic year | Enrolments |
|---|---|
| 1996/97 | 1,315 |
| 1997/98 | 1,275 |

*Enrolments[1] from Leeds, West parliamentary constituency UK higher education institutions[2] academic years 1996/97 to 2007/08*

| *Academic year* | *Enrolments* |
|---|---|
| 1998/99 | 1,470 |
| 1999/2000 | 1,505 |
| 2000/01 | 1,510 |
| 2001/02 | 1,520 |
| 2002/03 | 1,585 |
| 2003/04 | 1,635 |
| 2004/05 | 1,730 |
| 2005/06 | 1,830 |
| 2006/07 | 1,835 |
| 2007/08 | 1,825 |

[1] Covers enrolments to all levels and modes of study.

[2] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their data across the time series.

*Note:*

Figures are based on a snapshot count as at 1 December to maintain consistency across the time series.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

### Higher Education: Lewes

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people from Lewes constituency became full-time undergraduate students in each year from 2002-03 to 2007-08; and how many such people *(a)* were from and *(b)* had parents from each socio-economic group. [306957]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency is shown in the following table.

Figures are provided for full-time undergraduate entrants aged under 21, and 21 and over, as data on socio-economic class are gathered on a different basis for these two distinct age groups. Socio-economic class is derived from information on occupation: for entrants aged under 21 this is based on the occupation of their parent, and for those aged 21 and over it is based on their own occupation.

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency in January 2010.

*Full-time undergraduate entrants from Lewes constituency[1] by age and socio-economic classification[2]: UK higher education institutions[3]: academic years 2002/03 to 2007/08*

| | *2002/03* | | *2003/04* | | *2004/05* | | *2005/06* | | *2006/07* | | *2007/08* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Socio-economic classification* | *≤21* | *21+* | *≤21* | *21+* | *≤21* | *21+* | *≤21* | *21+* | *≤21* | *21+* | *≤21* | *21+* |
| Higher managerial and professional occupations | 75 | 5 | 95 | 10 | 90 | 10 | 100 | 10 | 85 | 5 | 80 | 0 |
| Lower managerial and professional occupations | 85 | 25 | 120 | 10 | 105 | 25 | 105 | 15 | 105 | 15 | 100 | 20 |
| Intermediate occupations | 35 | 10 | 35 | 10 | 45 | 15 | 45 | 5 | 45 | 5 | 35 | 15 |
| Small employers and own account workers | 20 | 0 | 30 | 5 | 30 | 5 | 20 | 5 | 30 | 5 | 25 | 5 |
| Lower supervisory and technical occupations | 15 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Semi-routine occupations | 20 | 15 | 25 | 5 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 20 | 10 |
| Routine occupations | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 5 |
| Total known | 255 | 60 | 325 | 50 | 310 | 75 | 325 | 50 | 310 | 50 | 285 | 55 |
| Missing[4] | 110 | 65 | 50 | 75 | 60 | 55 | 75 | 65 | 75 | 65 | 70 | 90 |

[1] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid information.

[2] This field collects the socio-economic classification of students participating in HE if 21 or over at the start of their course or parental classification if under 21.

[3] Figures exclude the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

[4] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing, not classified or 'Never worked and long-term unemployed'.

*Note:*

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, therefore components may not sum to totals.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency

### Higher Education: Student Numbers

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from *(a)* the city of Leeds, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* England graduated in each year since 1997. [306603]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency is shown in the table. This covers qualifiers from UK higher education institutions who were resident in Leeds, West Yorkshire and England at the time of applying to higher education. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

*Qualifiers[1] from Leeds local authority, West Yorkshire[2] and England UK higher education institutions. Academic years 1997/98 to 2007/08*

| *Academic year* | *Leeds* | *West Yorkshire* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997/98 | 3,865 | 10,625 | 305,995 |
| 1998/99 | 4,325 | 11,725 | 316,715 |
| 1999/2000 | 4,425 | 12,285 | 322,590 |
| 2000/01 | 4,680 | 12,895 | 355,550 |
| 2001/02 | 4,605 | 12,635 | 363,345 |
| 2002/03 | 5,055 | 13,815 | 387,615 |
| 2003/04 | 5,715 | 15,220 | 409,965 |
| 2004/05 | 5,610 | 15,130 | 427,900 |
| 2005/06 | 5,510 | 15,540 | 429,845 |
| 2006/07 | 5,955 | 15,715 | 434,335 |

*Qualifiers[1] from Leeds local authority, West Yorkshire[2] and England UK higher education institutions. Academic years 1997/98 to 2007/08*

| *Academic year* | *Leeds* | *West Yorkshire* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007/08 | 6,140 | 16,440 | 450,990 |

[1] Covers qualifiers from all levels and modes of study.

[2] Covers the local authorities of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield.

*Note:*

Figures are based on a qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

## Internet

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when his Department first informed the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers of its plans to bring forward proposals for new powers in relation to internet domain registries in the Digital Economy Bill. [305484]

**Mr. Timms:** The Department contacted ICANN in July to inform them that the Government were preparing reserve powers in respect of internet domain name registries.

## Internet: Copyright

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the cost of peer-to-peer file sharing of copyrighted material to the UK film industry in each year since 1999; if he will publish his Department's analysis upon which such an estimate is based; and if he will make a statement. [306025]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government have not carried out a study into the cost of unlawful peer-to-peer file-sharing to the UK film industry. However, the UK Film Council in 2006 estimated the total cost of copyright infringement to the UK film industry to be £388 million of which digital infringement is estimated to have cost the industry £202 million. The 2007 estimates were £404 million total cost, of which digital infringement £224 million. While digital infringement will include other forms of infringement than peer-to-peer, it is likely that it will account for a large proportion of the estimated figure. In the June 2009 consultation document IPSOS research, commissioned by the industry, was included that calculated losses in 2007 from unlawful peer-to-peer file-sharing to the film and television industries of £152 million.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the cost of peer-to-peer file sharing of copyrighted material to the UK games industry in each year since 1999; if he will publish his Department's analysis upon which such an estimate is based; and if he will make a statement. [306026]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government have not carried out a study into the cost of unlawful peer-to-peer file-sharing to the UK games industry. However, according to the Entertainment and Leisure Software Publishers Association (ELSPA) in their response to the consultation on this subject published last year, for the six-month period January to June 2008 industry, online monitoring of a selection of ELSPA members' games found over 350,000 infringing video game files for the UK. Globally, the monitoring of those games found over 11 million infringing video game files.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who shared copyrighted material through peer-to-peer technology in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [306027]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government have not carried out a study into the number of people who share copyrighted material unlawfully through peer-to-peer technology. Commonly quoted industry figures suggest around 6.5 million regular file-sharers, but it will be an early task for Ofcom under the Digital Economy Bill to set an authoritative baseline for the level of online infringement, and monitor the level of such infringement as the initial obligations begin to be applied.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the cost of peer-to-peer file sharing of copyrighted material to the British music industry in each year since 1999; if he will publish his Department's analysis upon which such an estimate is based; and if he will make a statement. [306055]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* The Government have not carried out an independent assessment of the cost of unlawful peer-to-peer file-sharing to the music industry. However, music industry research estimates that in 2008 they suffered losses as a consequence of such activity of £180 million. This figure, clearly identified as an industry estimate, was used in the consultation document issued in June 2009 on this topic.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have held with representatives from (i) the Federation Against Copyright Theft, (ii) the British recorded music industry and (iii) the Open Rights Group in the last 12 months. [306114]

**Mr. Lammy:** Ministers and officials from the Department have held numerous meetings in the last 12 months with the Federation Against Copyright Theft, the British Recorded Music Industry and the Open Rights Group.

## Internet: EU Law

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has made an assessment of the likely effects of EU Directive 2000/31/EC on the provisions outlined in the Digital Economy Bill, with particular reference to articles *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, and *(d)* 15 of the Directive; and if he will make a statement. [306030]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government believe the Digital Economy Bill is fully compliant with Directive 2000/31/EC.

### Internet: Security

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* residential customers and *(b)* business customers who have unencrypted wireless internet connections in the UK; [306028]

(2) what assessment he has made of the number of wireless routers in the UK that are protected by *(a)* WEP, *(b)* WEP2 and *(c)* WPA1 encryption; and if he will make a statement. [306029]

**Mr. Timms:** We do not collect data on the number of wireless networks that are protected by encryption nor the relative use of the various security techniques available. Get Safe Online advises home users to protect their wireless networks from intrusion by applying encryption.

### Invoices

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to prevent the practice of issuing unsolicited invoices to businesses for inclusion in internet and business city guides; and whether any prosecutions have been brought for offences related to this practice. [306816]

**Kevin Brennan:** Section 3 of the Unsolicited Goods and Services Act 1971 imposes requirements as to how agreements may be made for entries in business directories. A person will not be liable for any charge for inclusion in a directory of an entry relating to that person or his business unless that person has agreed to the charge. Local Trading Standards Services have a duty to enforce the legislation, although the Department does not hold information on the number of prosecutions brought.

### National Geoscience Data Centre

**Nigel Griffiths:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the costings of each of the four options considered in the British Geological Survey's Tribal Group report on the closure of the National Geoscience Data Centre in Gilmerton, Edinburgh. [305729]

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the costings of each of the four options considered in the British Geological Survey's Tribal Group report on the closure of the Survey's engineering and core store in Loanhead, Midlothian. [305730]

**Mr. Lammy:** The full report by the Tribal Group including the costings and net savings for the four options is available on the website of the British Geological Survey:

http://www.bgs.ac.uk/about/InformationManagementReport.html

### Post Office

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons a sub-postmaster's or sub-postmistress's contract may be terminated. [306500]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

### Post Office: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses are permitted to be accompanied by *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* other people independent of the Post Office at disciplinary meetings. [306497]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses have been subject to disciplinary action in respect of incidents related to the use of the Post Office Horizon system; and what standards of proof are used by the Post Office when investigating such incidents. [306499]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who conducts appeal proceedings in respect of disciplinary action taken against Post Office employees. [306501]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

### Post Offices

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post offices in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas in each region have closed in each year since 25 December 2004; and if he will make a statement. [306520]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post offices in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas in each region Post Office Ltd. has identified for closure in (i) 2010, (ii) 2011 and (iii) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [306639]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government have said that they will not support a further programme of post office closures so no post offices have been identified for future closure. However, neither the Government nor POL can prevent the closure of individual post offices where, for example, a sub-postmaster decides to retire or resign and a replacement cannot be found. The Government's access criteria will continue to apply across the UK.

We are providing up to £1.7 billion to 2011 to support a network of around 11,500 branches; this includes a £150 million annual social network payment to support non-commercial sub-post offices, in urban as well as rural areas, from April 2008. We also recognise that there will be a continuing need for network support payments beyond 2011.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas in each region live (i) less than one miles, (ii) less than two miles, (iii) less than three miles and (iv) three miles or more from the nearest post office; and if he will make a statement. [306640]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

### Post Offices: Information and Communications Technology

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what changes to the Post Office Horizon system will be made in the development of a new system. [306498]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what timetable he has set for the implementation of the new Post Office Horizon system; and what his most recent estimate is of the cost of implementing that system. [306493]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have asked Alan Cook, managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms are in place for independent audit and checking of the new Post Office Horizon system prior to its implementation. [306494]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have asked Alan Cook, managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely savings to the Exchequer consequent on the implementation of the new Post Office Horizon system. [306495]

**Mr. McFadden:** In 2007, the Government agreed a business plan with the Post Office for the period to March 2011. This was linked to the funding of up to £1.7 billion which the Government are providing to the Post Office over that period. The business plan sets out a range of cost saving measures being undertaken by the Post Office, including upgrades to its Horizon IT system. These measures will in total provide an annual cost saving of over £200 million from 2011 and Post Office Ltd is on target to achieve this. POL's progress on delivering these cost savings is monitored by the Shareholder Executive.

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Post Office Horizon system will be examined by independent auditors prior to its replacement. [306496]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

### Postal Services Commission: Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Postal Services Commission has spent on hotel accommodation for its officials in each of the last five years. [306045]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for which Postcomm has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked Postcomm's Chief Executive, Tim Brown, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Postal Services Commission: Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what redesigns of websites operated by the Postal Services Commission have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306210]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for which Postcomm has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked Postcomm's Chief Executive, Tim Brown, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Public Sector: Information

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the announcement on 17 November 2009 on the Making Public Data Public initiative, what steps are being considered by the Government to increase the availability of public sector information to business, individuals and community organisations. [306350]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government's overall policies and plans for increasing the availability and re-use of public data are set out in "Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government" (Cm 7753), published on 7 December.

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the terms of reference are for his Department's Making Public Data Public initiative; and if he will make a statement. [306484]

**Mr. Timms:** The terms of reference for the initiative led by Sir Tim Berners-Lee OM and Professor Nigel Shadbolt are as follows:

In the last two years the Government's work on the power of information has shown how the information revolution has the potential to transform Government and public services.

The Government have accepted all of the recommendations of the Power of Information Taskforce to open up access to Government information for free re-use.

In particular, and linked to its wider programme of Public Service Reform, the Government are committed to implementing and to extending to the wider public sector the principle that public sector information should be available under straightforward licences and in standard formats for others to re-use: the principle that public sector information should be public.

In the next six months, Sir Tim Berners-Lee will serve in an advisory capacity to the Minister for the Cabinet Office, and he will work with Professor Nigel Shadbolt to form a panel of technical and delivery experts to oversee the rapid implementation of key recommendations, including:

(1) Overseeing the creation of a single online point of access for all public UK datasets—and work with departments to make this part of their routine operations—with a live Beta site running by the end of the year.

(2) Bringing forward specific proposals to implement and extend to the wider public sector the public sector information principle, including:

helping to select and implement common standards for the release of public data

helping to select, develop and implement common terms for that data where necessary

developing Crown Copyright and 'Crown Commons' licences and extending these to the wider public sector

supporting the exploitation and publication of distributed and decentralised information assets

looking at the potential for reform of the information regulatory framework, working with the Information Commissioner's Office and other experts to ensure that the regulatory regime supports the proactive publication of Government information

(3) Driving the use of the internet to improve Government consultation processes as proposed by the Taskforce and learning from the innovations already used by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Cabinet Office and others.

Other key areas in which Sir Tim Berners-Lee will advise the Government include:

(4) Working with the Government to engage with the leading experts internationally working on public data and standards, and to promote international liaison and global standards setting—an investment in future international data sharing.

(5) Helping to drive culture change in Whitehall toward an assumption of total publication for anonymous data using open standards.

The panel will work closely with the recently-appointed Director for Digital Engagement and other officials in the Cabinet Office, the Office for Public Sector Information (part of The National Archives), and the Technology Strategy Board.

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which public sector information holders are being considered under his Department's Making Public Data Public initiative; and if he will make a statement. [306485]

**Mr. Timms:** The Making Public Data Public initiative has initially focused on public sector information holders in central Government Departments and agencies. The Government consider that the same principles should be extended to all public services, and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced on 7 December that Professor Nigel Shadbolt will lead a Local Public Data Panel to work with local government to release local public data.

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what methodology was used to calculate the estimate that the implementation of the Making Public Data Public initiative could contribute £1 billion to the economy. [306486]

**Mr. Timms:** The Office of Fair Trading market study "Commercial Use of Public Information" (published in 2006) estimated that improving the way in which the market for public sector information worked could mean it would grow to over £1 billion per annum.

## Students: Loans

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people not domiciled in the UK have outstanding loans with the Student Loans Company; how many such loans are in arrears; and in respect of how many such loans no repayments were made in the last 12 months. [303616]

**Mr. Lammy:** The most recent figures showing the number of borrowers not domiciled in the UK with outstanding loans and the number in arrears and not paying have been published by the Student Loans Company, and are available in the following documents on the website.

SLC SFR 02/2009 Student Loans for Higher Education in England, Financial Year 2008-09 (Provisional) at:

www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr022009.pdf

Annexe—Income Contingent Repayments by Repayment Cohort and Tax Year 2000/01 to 2007/08 Inclusive (Provisional) at:

www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr022009annex.pdf

For borrowers who are domiciled in the EU, effective collection is underpinned by EC Regulations 44/2001 which allows the SLC to obtain judgments in UK courts, which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries. Borrowers' accounts must be set up with repayment schedules and put into notional arrears in order that the SLC can inform borrowers that unless they take steps to provide income details and commence repayment where appropriate, legal action will be taken against them. This is an essential step in the overseas collection process.

## Transport

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies involved in *(a)* passenger rail transport, *(b)* interurban and suburban passenger land transport, *(c)* urban, suburban and metropolitan area passenger transportation by underground, metro or similar systems and *(d)* taxi operation have (i) become insolvent, (ii) ceased trading for other reasons and (iii) been started up in each of the last 10 years. [306642]

**Ian Lucas:** The Insolvency Service does not currently collect or maintain a record of figures at the level of detail requested for part (i). The lowest available industry breakdown is for "Land Transport" as a whole; these figures are available at:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolv.htm

and were also provided in the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report* column 982W.

Parts *(b)* and *(c)* can not be answered independently. Instead information has been provided on standard industrial classification 6021 which covers elements of both part *(b)* and part *(c)*, and 6023 which also covers elements of part *(b)*.

Responsibility for statistics relating to business start-ups and closures ("births" and "deaths") has moved from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The data recorded as follows are the record statistics received from the ONS in response to *(b)* and *(c)* above. These represent those figures which are both readily available and most similar in coverage to the figures for insolvencies, but they should not be treated as being entirely consistent and, in particular, the ONS' figures will include some businesses that are not registered companies.

*Part (ii) Deaths*

*(a) Passenger rail transport (England and Wales)*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6010 Transport via railways | 5 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 10 |

*(b) interurban and suburban passenger land transport and (c) urban, suburban and metropolitan area passenger transportation by underground, metro or similar systems (England and Wales)*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6021 Other scheduled passenger land transport | 130 | 170 | 145 | 165 | 115 | 140 | 125 |
| 6023 Other passenger land transport | 215 | 300 | 330 | 285 | 235 | 265 | 245 |

*(d) taxi operation (England and Wales)*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6022 Taxi operation | 835 | 855 | 870 | 1025 | 900 | 965 | 970 |

*Part (iii) Births*

*(a) Passenger rail transport (England and Wales)*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6010 Transport via railways | 15 | 25 | 10 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 15 |

*(b) Interurban and suburban passenger land transport and (c) urban, suburban and metropolitan area passenger transportation by underground, metro or similar systems (England and Wales)*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6021 Other scheduled passenger land transport | 115 | 110 | 145 | 175 | 155 | 140 | 135 |
| 6023 Other passenger land transport | 340 | 375 | 305 | 275 | 265 | 250 | 290 |

*(d) taxi operation (England and Wales)*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6022 Taxi operation | 975 | 1200 | 1835 | 1335 | 1275 | 1280 | 950 |

*Source:*

ONS

The population base includes all those businesses which are registered for VAT and/or PAYE, rather than registered companies. It should be noted that the above figures are inclusive of insolvencies; it is not possible to separate these out.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 15 December 2009*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Cats

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will consider the merits of providing a resident cat. [306270]

**Nick Harvey:** The Commission has no plans to introduce a cat. The House Service includes a qualified pest controller, who monitors and controls pests on the parliamentary estate using humane and effective methods. In addition, an independent expert is employed to audit and advise on pest control, and inspections of catering areas are undertaken by the local council. The clear advice we have is that all effective measures possible are being taken, but that in a building such as the Palace, pests such as mice can only be controlled rather than eradicated.

### Security

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the House of Commons Commission has engaged any *(a)* private intelligence and *(b)* private security firms or consultants in the last 12 months. [305172]

**Nick Harvey:** The House of Commons has engaged one private security firm in the last 12 months for one specific piece of work in connection with the internal inquiry into the unauthorised disclosure of information on Members' allowances.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what redesigns of websites operated by the Electoral Commission have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306192]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it has completed two website redesign projects in this period.

The first was the redevelopment of its corporate website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

This project was completed in June 2008 at a cost of £283,744.

The second was the redevelopment of the Commission's voter information website:

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

This project was completed in August 2008 at a cost of £140,600.

### Electoral Register

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent estimate the Electoral Commission has made of the number of people registered to vote in *(a)* local, *(b)* European and *(c)* general elections. [306317]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Commission informs me that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects annual electoral registration data showing the number of entries on the local government and parliamentary registers. The most recent figures are for the electoral registers on 1 December 2008 and show the following numbers of entries on the electoral registers for the United Kingdom.

| *Type of election* | *Entries on the electoral registers* |
|---|---|
| Local government | 46,147,877 |
| Parliamentary | 45,194,449 |

For the European Parliament elections across the United Kingdom on 4 June 2009, the number of entries on the registers was 45,312,626.

The ONS is due to publish figures for the 1 December 2009 electoral registers in the spring of 2010.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much the Electoral Commission has spent on hotel accommodation for its staff in each of the last five years. [305706]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it has spent approximately the following amounts in each of the last five years on hotel accommodation for staff. It is not possible to provide more precise figures as these totals include some travel and subsistence expenses, and to disaggregate these would incur disproportionate cost:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 32,080 |
| 2005-06 | 29,480 |
| 2006-07 | 23,490 |
| 2007-08 | 56,850 |
| 2008-09 | 71,090 |

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-6, on Afghanistan and Pakistan, on what date the Government agreed with the Afghan government that the capacity of the Helmand police training centre would be doubled; and if he will make a statement. [304877]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

The decision to increase the capacity of the recently opened interim Helmand police training centre from 150 to 250 police per course was taken by the Helmand provincial chief of police on 28 October 2009. The decision is fully supported by the Civilian-Military Mission in Helmand. The UK has funded the interim police training centre as part of a programme of capacity building in Helmand, including the training and mentoring of Afghan national police recruits.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether operational commitments in Afghanistan have affected the military's capability to build temporary bridges in the UK. [307145]

**Bill Rammell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 331W, to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock). This includes our capability to build bridges in the UK.

## Air Force: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average unit tour interval was for each *(a)* aircraft and *(b)* helicopter crew type in the Royal Air Force in the latest period for which figures are available. [304374]

**Bill Rammell:** The average unit tour interval for each RAF aircraft and helicopter crew type, including those in Joint Helicopter Command, as at 3 December 2009 is shown in the following table.

The roles and deployment patterns vary between each type of aircraft and this is reflected in the tour intervals experienced by their aircrew. Aircrew when not deployed on operations continue to meet defence commitments and conduct training.

| *Aircraft type* | *Average tour interval* | *Tours* |
|---|---|---|
| Hercules C130K | 42 days | Afghanistan |
| Hercules C130J | 92 days | Afghanistan and Iraq |
| Hercules C130K | 90 days | Falkland Islands |
| Sentinel | 63 days | Afghanistan |
| Tristar | 70 days | Afghanistan |
| VC10 | 20 months | Falkland Islands |
| Tornado GR4 | 18 months | Afghanistan |
| BAE125 | three months | Afghanistan |
| BAE146 | three months | Afghanistan |
| Chinook | 42 weeks | Afghanistan |
| Merlin | 44 weeks | Afghanistan |
| Sea King | 17 months | Falkland Islands |

## Armed Forces: Absence without Leave

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel went absent without leave *(a)* from posts (i) in Scotland, (ii) in Northern Ireland, (iii) in Wales, (iv) in England and (v) overseas and *(b)* while on operations in each month of 2009. [304775]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information is not held in the format requested. Centrally held information relates to the number of Absent Without Leave incidents and not to the number of personnel. Additionally, data are only available by month in respect of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. In respect of the Army, only the year to date total is held centrally and to obtain this information by month will require a manual search of records which could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The available figures are provided in the following table.

AWOL statistics are recorded by the number of incidences reported. Within this total there may be service personnel who have been AWOL on more than one occasion. Furthermore, following the reporting of an incidence of AWOL, information may later come to light of extenuating circumstances for that unauthorised absence, such as compassionate, hospitalisation or travel delays beyond the individual's control. In such cases they may not have been formally charged but the incidence is still recorded.

| | | *Region* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Royal Navy* | *Eastern* | *Western* | *Northern* | *Army* | *Royal Air Force* | *Region* |
| January | 5 | 5 | 5 | 0 | — | 1 | Scotland |
| February | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 | — | 0 | — |
| March | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 | — | 0 | — |
| April | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | — | 0 | — |
| May | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 | — | 0 | — |
| June | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 | — | 0 | — |
| July | 10 | 5 | 0 | 0 | — | 0 | — |
| August | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | — | 1 | England |
| September | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 | — | 0 | — |
| October | 10 | 5 | 0 | 0 | — | 1 | England |
| November | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — | 3 | England |
| Total | [1]82 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]1,605 | [1]6 | — |

[1] This is the number of recorded incidences, not the number of people AWOL or the number of charges brought.

Notes:

1. Figures in respect of the Royal Navy and Army rounded to nearest 5.
2. The Royal Navy record their AWOL incidences by regions of the United Kingdom (Eastern, Western and Northern) from the ship or unit where they absconded from.

## Armed Forces: Cadets

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow of cadet forces staff has been in each month of 2009 to date. [304435]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** This information is neither held centrally nor in the format requested, and could be provided only by a manual search of records thus incurring a disproportionate cost.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow has been of each cadet and combined cadet force in each month of 2009 to date; [304436]

(2) what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of cadet staff has been in each month of 2009 to date. [304437]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Statistics on the strengths of the Adult Volunteers for cadet forces and each cadet and combined cadet force is contained within the document "TSP 7 Annual Publication UK Reserves and Cadets as at 1 April 2009." This is available in the Library of the House and at the following link:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Monthly information is neither held centrally nor in the format requested and could only be provided by a manual search of records at disproportionate cost.

We are greatly indebted to the superb commitment of the adult volunteers who continue to provide such a rewarding experience for the cadets in detachments throughout the country. I am extremely grateful to the Cadet Force Adult Volunteers for the commitment and leadership they continue to display.

### Armed Forces: Manpower

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* trained requirement, *(b)* trained strength and *(c)* fit for duty strength is of each pinch point trade; [305018]

(2) what percentage of each pinch point trade is in breach of its harmony guidelines on individual separated service; [305019]

(3) what the percentage shortfall of *(a)* trained requirement, *(b)* trained strength and *(c)* fit for duty strength of each pinch point trade is. [306797]

**Bill Rammell:** Information detailing pinch point trades has been reclassified. I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

The House of Commons Defence Committee will continue to be provided with information on the armed forces manning situation, including pinch point trades, under normal security exemptions.

### Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers have been diagnosed with mental health problems following active service in Iraq. [306950]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The MOD's Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation publishes statistics on first attendances to MOD's out-patient Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) and its in-patient contractor, in the UK Armed Forces Psychiatric Morbidity reports. Quarterly and annual reports for the whole of 2007 and 2008, and quarterly reports for January to March and April to June 2009, are now available both in the Library of the House and on the DASA website at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Equivalent verified data prior to 2007 are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Sport

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the funding of competitive sport as an element of adventurous training courses for members of the armed forces; whether this policy has changed during the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [306381]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* Both competitive sport and adventurous training in the armed forces make a vital contribution to operational effectiveness, fighting spirit and personal development. They play an important part in service life including recruiting and retention. While some physical activities (canoeing, gliding, mountaineering, parachuting and sailing) can be authorised either as sport or adventurous training, a clear dividing line is drawn. If the activity is 'competitive' it is designated as 'sport' and conducted under the regulations of the relevant national governing body; non-competitive adventurous training is undertaken under the services' adventure training policy. Consequently, publicly-funded adventurous training courses do not involve competitive sport. This policy has not changed in the last six months.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the policy of his Department is on the funding of competitive sport involving *(a)* teams and *(b)* individuals from the armed services; whether that policy has changed during the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [306382]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* Sport in the armed forces makes a vital contribution to operational effectiveness, fighting spirit and personal development. It plays an important part in service life including recruiting and retention. Consequently encouragement is given to service personnel to participate in a full range of sporting activities both as team members and individuals. For major sports facilities are provided at units and for all eligible sports public funding is provided, within laid down criteria, for equipment, travel and cash in lieu of rations. Sport is also supported by non-public funds. There has been no change to this policy in the last six months.

### Armed Forces: Training

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the training restrictions placed on the Officer Training Corps apply to *(a)* University Air Squadrons and *(b)* University Royal Naval Units. [307237]

**Bill Rammell:** There are currently no training restrictions in place on the Officer Training Corps (OTC). Payments for officer cadets attending training have been suspended since October 2009 as part of a range of budgetary measures put forward by the Army this year. OTC activities are continuing on a voluntary basis, although travel and subsistence costs are being met and all cadets will have the opportunity to earn their annual bounty.

The Royal Air Force has made a 10 per cent. reduction in its university Air Squadron ground training budget for this financial year, the flying training budget has not been affected. This has reduced some adventurous training activities, and annual paid training days for cadets have been reduced from 35 to 31.

No training restrictions have been placed on university Royal Navy units this year.

### Bailey Bridges

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department plans to continue using Bailey bridges; [307143]

(2) how long it takes on average to construct a Bailey bridge in ideal conditions. [307144]

**Bill Rammell:** The Bailey bridge is no longer used by the British Army. The requirement for long, clear span, high load class bridges is now met by the Logistic Support Bridge (LSB), which is a development of the Bailey bridge. While sharing some characteristics of the proven Bailey bridge system, the LSB has significantly improved performance; primarily due to improvements in design, manufacturing processes and raw materials.

The time taken to construct a LSB is dependant upon a myriad of different factors including the length of span required, the weight of traffic that must be supported and crucially the conditions of, and access to the site where the bridge is required. As an illustrative example a 12 bay (36 m) bridge on a pristine site in ideal conditions would take 40 hours to erect. The bridge that was recently constructed in Cumbria (a 52 m span) took three and a half days of bridge construction, within a wider window of almost 10 days for all the associated preparation and support. Given the challenging conditions of this particular task, this is a considerable achievement.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the load capacity is of the Bailey bridge recently constructed over the River Derwent; and whether his Department plans to build a temporary road bridge over the River Derwent. [307146]

**Bill Rammell:** The load capacity of the temporary footbridge built across the River Derwent is 4.5 tonnes. We are not aware of any plans for Cumbria county council or central Government to ask the Ministry of Defence for the construction of a road bridge, temporary or otherwise.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of his Department's locations in the UK have recorded *(a)* laptop computers, *(b)* desktop computers and *(c)* memory sticks as having been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in each of the last 10 years. [306696]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of parliamentary questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive Answer on that day. [307539]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 367W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (John Mason).

Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the "Guide to Parliamentary Work", at the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee Report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments will be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

### Military Bases: Browndown

**Sir Peter Viggers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are to continue the activities of those Army Cadet Force units which use the Browndown military accommodation following its planned closure. [307606]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Cornwall Army Cadet Force (ACF) was the only ACF which used Browndown for its annual camp. This will now take place at Penhale or St. Mawgan. 145 Brigade's central training camps for adults and senior cadets were formerly held at Browndown. These will now be run at Bicester Garrison, Longmoor or Malta Lines in Aldershot, depending on availability.

### Naval Strike Wing

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the order of battle of the Naval Strike Wing is; where it is based; and what its command structure is. [306742]

**Bill Rammell:** The Naval Strike Wing (NSW) is part of Joint Force Harrier (JFH) which is based at RAF Cottesmore. NSW flies the Harrier GR9 aircraft and comprises 197 personnel, including 16 pilots. Commanding Officer NSW, a Royal Navy (RN) Commander, is directly responsible to the JFH Force Commander (FC), a RAF Group Captain, who is also Station Commander at RAF Cottesmore.

The JFH FC is responsible to Air Officer Commanding (AOC) No. 1 Group, RAF Air Command, through Captain Harrier, a RN manned position within HQ No. 1 Group, RAF Air Command—AOC 1 Gp is the Aircraft Operating Authority for all JFH aircraft, aircrew and support personnel.

### Rescue Services: Pembrokeshire

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times a search and rescue helicopter from RMB Chivenor was operational off the coast of Pembrokeshire in *(a)* day time and *(b)* night time in each of the last five years. [306655]

**Bill Rammell:** The number of search and rescue call outs from RMB Chivenor off the coast of Pembrokeshire are shown in the following table. Day time call outs have been interpreted as between 0800 and 1959. Call outs have been defined as those within a 25 mile radius of the Pembrokeshire coastline.

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Day | 26 | 23 | 23 | 15 | 31 |
| Night | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Total | 29 | 27 | 27 | 20 | 36 |

[1] Up to 30 September.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the helicopter flying time from *(a)* RMB Chivenor, *(b)* RAF Valley, *(c)* RNAS Culdrose and *(d)* Solent Coastguard to Pembrokeshire. [illegible]

**Bill Rammell:** The current average helicopter flying times, to the risk areas covering Pembrokeshire and its surrounding coastal waters, together with the estimated flying times for the future UK Search and Rescue—Helicopter (SAR-H) service are provided in the following table.

| | Current (minutes) | Future (minutes) |
|---|---|---|
| RMB Chivenor | 34 | 27 |
| RAF Valley | 42 | 33 |
| RNAS Culdrose | 63 | 49 |
| MCA Lee on Solent | 66 | 60 |

We continue to meet our national requirement of reaching all very high, all high and 75 per cent. of medium risk areas well within one hour of take off.

## OLYMPICS

### Christmas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many Christmas trees were purchased by her Office in each year since its was established; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [illegible]

**Tessa Jowell:** My office has not purchased any Christmas trees since it was established.

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in her Department since its inception; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [illegible]

**Tessa Jowell:** Information on overseas conferences attended by civil servants in the Cabinet Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will be covered in the answers provided by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office and the Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Mr. Simon) respectively.

### Departmental Int[illegible]

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what redesigns of websites operated by her Office have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306196]

**Tessa Jowell:** Information on the redesigns of websites in the Cabinet Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will be covered in the answers provided by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office and the Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Mr. Simon) , respectively.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many overseas training courses were attended by her Office's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305887]

**Tessa Jowell:** Civil servants in the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) report to me through the permanent secretary of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and will therefore be included in the answer provided by the Under-Secretary of Statefor Culture, Media and Sport, my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Mr. Simon). Cabinet Office civil servants will be covered in the answer provided by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much her Office spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305653]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Government publish an annual list of all (international) ministerial travel costing over £500. The list includes a breakdown of travel by all Ministers and the global figure for the cost of ministerial travel includes the cost of staff (including special advisers) accompanying Ministers. Detail of travel taken in the current year will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the financial year. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Information on other hotel accommodation used by myself, special advisers and civil servants in my office will be included in the answer provided by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many groups in the Government Olympic Executive have responsibility for 2012 Olympic legacy matters; what the *(a)* membership is and *(b)* responsibilities for Olympic legacy matters of each such group are; and how many times each such group has met in the last 12 months. [305789]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Board in the Government Olympic Executive has responsibility for managing the legacy from the 2012 games.

Four supporting boards report to the Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Board: covering East London, sports, social and economic legacy. There is also a Nations and Regions Group which ensures that the legacy of the games is UK-wide.

The members consist of civil servants from across Whitehall and representatives from external organisations who give their time for free.

This year the Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Board has met three times. Each of its four sub-groups has met two or three times and the Nations and Regions Group members have met four times.

I will place the terms of reference and membership for each of the groups mentioned above in the Libraries of both Houses.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Historic Buildings: Coventry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the review by English Heritage on the proposed listing of Coventry Market to be concluded; what representations his Department has received on the matter; what discussions his Department has had with Coventry city council on the matter; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the proposed listing on wider regeneration plans for Coventry. [307168]

**Margaret Hodge:** The grounds for review submitted by the listing review applicants have been assessed by the Department and further advice has been requested from English Heritage, the Secretary of State's statutory advisers on the historic environment. I would expect to be able to make a decision on the review by March 2010.

The Department has received representations both in favour and opposing listing from private individuals and companies. DCMS has not had any discussions with Coventry city council on the issue of the review.

The Secretary of State, when making a listing decision, may only take into account the architectural and historic interest of a building. He may not take into account planning matters and, therefore, is unable to consider the possible effects of listing on regeneration plans.

### Leisure: Facilities

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on *(a)* leisure facilities and *(b)* sports facilities in each district and unitary council area in the Eastern region in the last 12 months. [306465]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested is not held centrally in the manner requested; to provide it would incur disproportionate costs.

### Sports: Obesity

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage participation in sport in Leeds West constituency in order to reduce levels of obesity; and what funding has been made available for this purpose in 2009-10. [306979]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** DCMS is primarily focused on increasing sports participation, with Sport England as our key delivery partner. However, this is part of a joint target with the Department of Health to get 2 million more people more physically active, including one million more people playing more sport. DCMS and Sport England work very closely with the Department for Health across this target and sport will, of course, have a great positive effect on people's health.

As the non-departmental public body with responsibility for community sport, Sport England's aim is to increase and sustain levels of participation in sport and develop talent to drive standards of elite performance throughout the country. Its funding is distributed as part of the commitment to get 1 million more people playing more sport by 2012.

National governing bodies of sport (NGBs) are at the heart of the strategy as it is their networks of community clubs, coaches and volunteers that make sport happen. Sport England is investing £480 million through 46 governing bodies over the next four years and has agreed grow, sustain and excel targets with each one. Each sport has developed a whole sport plan to achieve these targets.

In addition to the funding which is distributed through NGBs, Sport England also operates a number of other funding streams. In 2009-10 Leeds, West received a revenue Sportsmatch award of £50,000 through Exchequer funding to Leeds Rugby Academy for a community sports programme.

While no additional lottery awards have been made in the current financial year to Leeds, West, in previous financial years the total value of capital and revenue funding to Leeds, West totalled £2,249,610.

### Sports: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial assistance *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the National Lottery have given to (i) amateur sports clubs, (ii) sport in schools and (iii) professional sports clubs in York since 1996-97. [304509]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information is as follows:

*Amateur sports clubs*

(i) In 2002 the Department introduced the Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) Scheme which provides certain tax reliefs for registered clubs, similar to those normally given to charities. The Department does not hold records on the number of clubs registered or the financial benefit received by registered clubs in York. However as at November 2009 the CASC scheme has 5,511 registered clubs across the UK, and Deloittes estimate that it has saved community amateur sports nearly £61 million since the scheme's inception. This money has gone back into sport and has enabled clubs to spend it on everything from facilities to kit.

Sport England have invested approximately £300 million nationally into national governing bodies of sport (not including the Football Foundation funding) since 2005. While a proportion of this funding was used to develop amateur sports clubs, Sport England are unable to breakdown the information as required. They also provide extra funding (in addition to their funding of national governing bodies of sport) directly to amateur sports clubs around the country including in York.

The Football Foundation, which is funded by the premier league, the Football Association and the Government, has advised that since its inception in 2000, it has granted a total of £2,227,115 to amateur sports clubs in York. Since 1999 The Big Lottery Fund has also awarded £73,743, through a total of 19 awards, benefiting amateur sports in the city of York constituency.

*Sport in schools*

(ii) Since 2003, approximately £2.4 billion has been invested nationally to support sport in schools through the PE, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) strategy and then the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP). This total is a mixture of Exchequer and lottery funding, of which £686 million has been lottery funding. The Department is unable to provide a breakdown of this total at local authority level without incurring a disproportionate cost.

The Big Lottery Fund has advised that they awarded £887,392 through a total of 24 awards, benefiting sport in schools in the city of York.

*Professional sport*

(iii) In terms of lottery funding, the York City football club received a total of £556,163 through the Football Youth Development Programme. The following table provides details of individual awards by year:

| | *Recipient* | *Project title* | *Local authority* | *Total (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | York City FC | Football Youth Development Programme | York | 288,690 |
| 2003-04 | York City FC | Football Youth Development Programme | York | 138,000 |
| 2004-05 | York City FC | Football Youth Development Programme | York | 67,890 |
| 2005-06 | York City FC | Football Youth Development Programme | York | 61,583 |
| Grand total | | | | 556,163 |

*Source:*
Sport England

## Tourism

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the inbound tourism figures were for the first three quarters of *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [303194]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 1 December 2009]:* VisitBritain forecast that the full year picture for tourism in 2009 will be a year-on-year spending increase of 1 per cent.

While the United Nations World Tourism Organisation predictions were that inbound tourism figures were expected to fall for all countries because of the economic climate, the figures for inbound holiday tourism (up 3 per cent. in the first nine months of this year) and domestic tourism (up 6 per cent. in the first eight months of this year) have remained strong.

The figures over the first three quarters of both years are set out in the following table. However, latest figures show the number of overseas residents visiting the UK in September 2009 was unchanged compared with September 2008. Furthermore, overseas visitor spend in September was 7 per cent. higher than September last year.

The latest UK inbound tourism figures (in thousands), for 2008 and 2009 are set out as follows[1].

[1] Source:
The Office for National Statistics

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *2008* | |
| Quarter 1 | 7,195 |
| Quarter 2 | 8,405 |
| Quarter 3 | 9,358 |
| Quarter 4 | 6,930 |
| *2009* | |
| Quarter 1 | 6,197 |
| Quarter 2 | 7,904 |
| Quarter 3 | [1]8,860 |

[1] Latest estimate.

# PRIME MINISTER

## Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Prime Minister which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in 10 Downing Street in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305876]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the annual list of overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers, costing in excess of £500, published by the Government. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House.

## Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Prime Minister how many plasma screen televisions his Office has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306083]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 839W.

## General Elections

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Prime Minister when the purdah period in advance of a general election will commence in respect of Government announcements; and if he will make a statement. [305752]

**The Prime Minister:** In line with established practice, once a general election is announced, guidance is issued on questions of procedure and conduct during the period of the election.

### Iraq Committee of Inquiry

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish a list of all the documents the Government have made available to the Iraq Inquiry. [306383]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to my statement of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 23.

### Tony Blair

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Prime Minister when he last spoke to Tony Blair about official business. [305830]

**The Prime Minister:** I have regular discussions with a wide range of individuals.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for the Government Equalities Office. [303609]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** Six full-time press officers currently work for the Government Equalities Office, supporting the Department and its four Ministers.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many and what percentage of Parliamentary Questions tabled for written answer by her on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307531]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** There were 41 named day parliamentary questions tabled for written answer by the Minister for Women and Equality during session 2008-09. Of these 59 per cent. received a substantive answer on the named day.

### Equal Pay

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent progress has been made on reducing the pay gap between men and women. [303001]

**Maria Eagle:** The latest figures from the Office for National Statistics show the gender gap based on median hourly earnings for all employees has fallen from 22.5 per cent. in 2008 to 22.0 per cent. in 2009.

### Equalities and Human Rights Commission: Research

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what research the Equality and Human Rights Commission has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* evaluated on equal pay in respect of (i) ethnic groups, (ii) disabled and able-bodied people and (iii) part-time and full-time employees in (A) Leeds and (B) England; and what level of difference in pay has been identified for each group in each location. [307440]

**Maria Eagle:** The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has published two research reports on gender pay gaps by different equality strands since December 2008. They are:

> Pay Gaps Across Equalities Areas by Simonetta Longhi and Lucinda Platt of the Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex (ECHR Research Report no. 9, 2008); and
>
> Pay Gaps Across the Equality Strands: a review by Hilary Metcalf of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (ECHR Research Report no. 14, 2009).

The first study consists of a statistical analysis of the Labour Force Survey; the second study is a review of the existing research evidence from 2000 onwards. Both reports take a Great Britain wide approach and show data on pay gaps by ethnicity and disability and also include some information on full-time and part-time pay gaps. However, neither report presents data separately for England or for Leeds.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [303841]

**Mr. Woodward:** The total spent by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), its agencies and arm's length bodies, including the Public Prosecution Service on Christmas cards to individuals working in and with the Northern Ireland community was £1,960.53. At Hillsborough castle, provision of two Christmas trees cost £195.00 with a further £909.14 spent on decorations across the rest of the Department. The Northern Ireland Office London office, to mark the work of staff during the year, held a special event; the total cost for this event was £990.28.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305678]

**Paul Goggins:** The amount spent on work and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers is not separately costed or invoiced so this question could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305522]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arm's length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and non-departmental public bodies, has had no expenditure on *(a)* ministerial photoshoots or *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years.

### Police Service of Northern Ireland: Finance

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the policing budget in Northern Ireland has been in each year since 1979. [305413]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is available only for the last 10 years and is as follows:

*£ million*

| — | *Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit* | *Capital DEL* | *Annual Managed Expenditure* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 640.8 | 14.1 | — | 654.9 |
| 2000-01 | 671.5 | 12.8 | — | 684.3 |
| 2001-02 | 687.5 | 18.2 | — | 705.7 |
| 2002-03 | 702.4 | 21.6 | — | 724 |
| 2003-04 | 696 | 20.4 | — | 716.4 |
| 2004-05 | 736.4 | 31.7 | — | 768.1 |
| 2005-06 | 856.8 | 32.2 | — | 889 |
| 2006-07 | 895.2 | 38.7 | — | 933.9 |
| 2007-08 | 957 | 38.4 | 236.4 | 1,231.8 |
| 2008-09 | 933.5 | 41.1 | 265.2 | 1,239.8 |
| 2009-10 | 911.8 | 42.4 | 288.5 | 1,242.7 |

### Terrorism

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent assessment is of the security situation in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [307343]

**Paul Goggins:** The most recent report of the Independent Monitoring Commission confirms the threat from dissident republicans is more serious than at any time since they began to report in 2004. This small number of people are determined to take Northern Ireland back to the past but will not be allowed to succeed.

## TRANSPORT

### Buses: Injuries

**Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many injuries resulting from passengers falling on buses were reported in *(a)* England and *(b)* Greater London in the last five years. [306289]

**Paul Clark:** From the information collected by the Department for Transport it is not possible to identify passenger falls on buses. However, it is possible to identify those passengers reported by police as injured on a bus/coach that was in motion and did not impact with any object, vehicle or pedestrian. This information is given in the following table:

*Reported bus and coach passenger casualties in vehicles that were in motion and did not impact with any object, vehicle or pedestrian, by position in vehicle[1], 2004-08*

| | *(a) England* | | *(b) Greater London* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Year of accident* | *Standing* | *Seated[1]* | *Standing* | *Seated* |
| 2004 | 1,[illegible] | 1,541 | 644 | 490 |
| 2005 | 1,296 | 1,560 | 593 | 419 |
| 2006 | 1,295 | 1,432 | 597 | 336 |
| 2007 | 1,161 | 1,610 | 444 | 300 |
| 2008 | 1,110 | 1,556 | 436 | 339 |

*Reported bus and coach passenger casualties in vehicles that were in motion and did not impact with any object, vehicle or pedestrian, by position in vehicle[1], 2004-08*

[1] Excludes casualties that were boarding or alighting at the time of the accident.

### Departmental Travel

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many buses he used during his mystery traveller bus tour; [302688]

(2) how much his Department has spent on his mystery traveller bus tour. [302689]

**Mr. Khan:** To date, I have taken 20 buses.

I have paid for all my bus fares myself.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has offset the carbon emissions arising from his mystery traveller bus tour. [302927]

**Mr. Khan:** My bus tour has been planned to coincide, as far as possible, with existing ministerial commitments. All bus stages undertaken as part of the tour have been made using scheduled bus services available to the public. As such, carbon emissions arising specifically from the tour are negligible and no expenditure has been incurred to offset them.

### EU Law

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* statutory instruments and *(b)* other regulations his Department has brought forward in this Parliament to meet obligations arising from EU law. [304179]

**Mr. Khan:** Central records of statutory instruments made under specific powers have only been maintained by the Statutory Instruments Registrar since 2001. There are no central records maintained of "other regulations".

Central records show that since the Department for Transport was created in May 2002, it has made 138 statutory instruments to meet obligations arising from EU Law, under powers contained in the European Communities Act 1972.

EU law obligations may also be met by statutory instruments made under Acts other than the 1972 Act. According to a database held by the Department for Transport, the Department has made a total of 171 statutory instruments since the beginning of 2004 to meet EU law obligations. This number includes those instruments made under the 1972 Act as well as other Acts.

The cut-off date used for measuring the number of statutory instruments made was 4 December 2009.

### Motor Sports Association

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress has been made in amending legislation to provide for the transfer of responsibility for authorising routes for UK rallies from the Royal Automobile Club to the Motor Sports Association; and when that process is likely to be completed. [306536]

**Paul Clark:** Government officials will be writing to stakeholders shortly with a copy of the draft regulations and to explain how we intend to proceed. We are aiming to complete the process in the spring.

### Official Cars: Exhaust Emissions

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average level of carbon dioxide emissions was for new cars purchased by the Government Car and Despatch Agency in the last 12 months. [307602]

**Paul Clark:** The average level of carbon dioxide emissions for new cars purchased by the Government Car and Despatch Agency in the last 12 months is 142.08g/km.

### Public Transport: Crimes of Violence

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the Home Department's Together we can end violence against women and girls strategy, how much his Department plans to spend on steps to improve safety on public transport in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* each of the subsequent three years; and from what budget such expenditure will be drawn. [305310]

**Mr. Khan:** Substantial investment by the public transport industry, local authorities, the police and others has already been—and continues to be—made to help achieve a safe environment for public transport passengers and staff. The costs are met through a variety of Government and non-Government funding streams.

The development of the secure bus stations scheme and any further publication of good practice guidance on improving personal security will be met through the Department's administration budget to cover staff and any consultancy work.

The Department will contractually require new train operators to ensure the majority of rail stations are accredited under the Secure Stations scheme. All recently let rail franchises contain such provisions. The costs will be met from the rail franchising budget, but cannot be separately identified as they will form part of the total service proposition put forward by bidders.

### Severn Bridge: Tolls

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what mechanism governs the calculation of new annual tolls for the Severn Crossings. [306307]

**Mr. Khan:** The Severn Bridges Act 1992 provides that new toll rates are introduced on 1 January each year. Under the provisions of section 9(2) of the Act, an annual order is required to be made in December each year fixing the toll amounts for the following year. The annual toll rates are revised in line with a formula related to the retail price index figure for the previous September. The tolls are calculated by multiplying toll rates given in a table in section 9 of the Act by a factor to allow for the inflation increase from March 1989. These amounts are then rounded to the nearest 10 pence.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the Severn Crossing toll on businesses in Wales. [306308]

**Mr. Khan:** The second Severn Crossing was constructed to alleviate traffic problems on the old Severn Bridge and to improve transport links to businesses in Wales.

Since 1992, the tolling structure in place allows the Concessionaire to recover the costs associated with the construction of the second Severn Crossing and the financing, operation and maintenance of both Severn Crossings.

The Department for Transport has made no recent assessment of the impact of the Severn Crossings tolls on businesses in Wales.

### Taxis

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of unlicensed taxis operating in *(a)* England and *(b)* Leeds North West constituency. [305765]

**Mr. Khan:** In order to offer a taxi service lawfully in England (outside London), the driver and the vehicle must be licensed by the relevant local authority under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847. It is a matter for local licensing authorities to make an assessment of the extent of illegal operation in their area and take appropriate enforcement action where necessary. We do not keep a central record of any such assessments.

### Taxis: Guide Dogs

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many exemptions have been granted on medical grounds to licensed taxi drivers from the requirement under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to carry guide dogs with their owners. [305960]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport does not have access to these data centrally as exemptions are issued by local licensing authorities. It will be for licensing authorities to keep their own records as to the numbers of exemptions issued from the duty to carry assistance dogs.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage licensing authorities to ensure that the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 for licensed taxi drivers to carry guide dogs with their owners are monitored and enforced. [305961]

**Mr. Khan:** Taxi drivers have a duty under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to carry assistance dogs in their vehicles. These duties have been in effect since 31 March 2000. It is the responsibility of local licensing authorities to monitor and enforce the duties and should be incorporated into the licensing enforcement regime. The Department for Transport has issued guidance to licensing authorities outlining their duty to enforce the provisions.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost to the public purse has been of the purchase and installation of such screens in each such year. [306063]

**Dan Norris:** No plasma screens have been purchased since 2006. Further information concerning the purchase of plasma screens from 2001 to 2005 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Energy

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each of the last three years. [305946]

**Dan Norris:** The OGC publishes central Government Departments' display energy certificate (DEC) operational ratings building by building twice a year. The most recent publication, on 31 July 2009, contains DEC data up to and including 28 February.

This information can be found on the following website:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/government_delivery_display_energy_certificate_data.asp

Data relating to the energy rating of buildings as at 30 September 2009 will be published on the OGC website on 18 December 2009.

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the energy efficiency rating is of each of his Department's buildings in London. [306320]

**Dan Norris** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: The OGC publishes central Government Departments' display energy certificate (DEC) operational ratings building by building twice a year. The most recent publication, on 31 July 2009, contains DEC data up to and including 28 February. This information can be found on the following website:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/government_delivery_display_energy_certificate data.asp

Data relating to the energy rating of buildings as at 30 September 2009 will be published on the OGC website on 18 December 2009.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305494]

**Dan Norris:** Statistics published by the Ministry of Justice on freedom of information in central Government for 2008 show that of a total of 446 non-routine requests received by the Department (based on aggregated quarterly data) 72 per cent. (115) received a substantive response within 20 days. 88 per cent. (391) of requests were dealt with 'in time', that is within 20 days by meeting the deadline or other permitted extension deadline.

The statistics can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

and copies are available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the monetary value is of his Department's contract with Seven Squared for the production of its staff magazine; and for what reason the magazine is not produced by his Department's communications office. [305249]

**Dan Norris:** The monetary value of the contract with Seven Squared to produce *Landscape* magazine for the financial year 2008-09 was £136,752.24 (not including VAT).

*Landscape* is DEFRA's staff magazine. It is a high-quality publication that is issued 10 times a year and made available to staff in DEFRA, our Executive agencies and the other partner organisations with which we work. Research shows that the magazine is well read, well received and makes a strong contribution to the effectiveness of the business by raising awareness of our wide-ranging portfolio, and for ensuring that staff are clear about the purpose and direction of the Department.

It is more cost-effective for us to outsource publication of *Landscape* to an agency which has the necessary range of specialist equipment, software, technical skills and editorial skills to produce this high quality magazine. To establish and maintain a publication unit in-house which would be underutilised in this specific instance, cannot be justified.

### Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of household waste sent for incineration in the London borough of *(a)* Bexley, *(b)* Bromley, *(c)* Croydon and *(d)* Greenwich in the most recent period for which figures are available. [306895]

**Dan Norris:** The tonnage of waste sent for incineration with energy recovery by each of the local authorities in question in the financial year 2008-09 is shown in the following table. These authorities sent no waste to be incinerated without energy recovery in 2008-09.

The full local authority dataset is available on DEFRA's website.

| *Local authority* | *Municipal waste incinerated with energy recovery in 2008-09 (tonnes)* |
|---|---|
| Bexley | 14,880 |
| Bromley | 43,897 |
| Croydon | 309 |
| Greenwich | 60,083 |

*Source:*
WasteDataFlow.

### Drinks

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of litres of *(a)* soft drinks, *(b)* mineral water and *(c)* fruit juice were consumed per person in each of the last five years. [306561]

**Dan Norris:** The following table shows the estimated number of litres of soft drinks, mineral water and pure fruit juices purchased by UK household residents in the UK in each year since 2003-04.

*Litres per person per year*

| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Soft drinks | 116.0 | 108.6 | 102.3 | 106.4 | 98.8 |
| Mineral water | 15.1 | 16.3 | 16.5 | 18.8 | 16.7 |
| Pure fruit juice | 17.6 | 15.3 | 19.0 | 20.0 | 18.6 |
| Grand total | 148.7 | 140.3 | 137.8 | 145.1 | 134.1 |

*Notes:*
1. Estimates are averages over the UK household population including children.
2. Estimates cover both eating out and household purchases. Concentrated soft drinks have been converted by a factor of 5 to the unconcentrated equivalent.
*Source:*
The Expenditure and Food Survey

### Fish

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* quantity of canned fish purchased by the public sector in each of the last five years. [307650]

**Dan Norris:** The information requested is not available. For the past five years, the procurement of food products, including canned fish, has been a matter for individual public sector organisations and authorities. Future collaborative procurements will provide greater access to this type of information.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department's planned collaborative procurement framework for the purchase of canned fish in the public sector will include sustainability criteria. [307651]

**Dan Norris:** DEFRA is working closely with the Office of Government Commerce to ensure that sustainability criteria are embedded into future collaborative food procurement frameworks, including the one referred to on canned fish. The sustainability criteria will be included in the invitation to tender.

### Forestry Commission: Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what redesigns of websites operated by the Forestry Commission have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306199]

**Dan Norris:** The Forestry Commission's England website has not been the subject of a redesign process in the period specified, but has benefited from a continuing evolution with the publication of new information and improvements to the user experience.

### Incinerators

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review the licensing conditions relating to incinerator [illegible]rs for the purposes of imposing requirements [illegible]re detailed reporting, with particular reference to *(a)* quarterly reports for incinerator bottom ash and *(b)* test results for H14 ecotoxicity. [306738]

**Dan Norris:** There is no legal requirement for more detailed reporting under current UK or EU legislation. There is also no requirement to provide information on H14 testing (or any hazardous waste assessment) under Hazardous Waste Regulations or Environmental Permitting Regulations.

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made on the sampling of incinerator bottom ash for the purposes of classifying batches as hazardous or non-hazardous. [306739]

**Dan Norris:** The Environmental Services Association is currently finalising a sampling protocol that can be used to help the assessment of incinerator bottom ash.

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* national and *(b)* international standards there are in respect of the sampling of industrial waste or other materials to ensure that they are correctly classified as hazardous or non-hazardous. [306740]

**Dan Norris:** Due to the large variation in the composition of waste, there is no single national or international standard that could be applied for sampling wastes.

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will direct the Environment Agency to make available on its website the quarterly reports produced by incinerator operators on *(a)* discharges and *(b)* tests on incinerator bottom ash from their licensed facilities. [306741]

**Dan Norris:** The Environment Agency makes these reports available on its public registers. These can be viewed at the regional offices relevant to each facility. They are not stored electronically.

### Origin Marking: Israel

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals he has to identify products from the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza on labels; and if he will make a statement. [305985]

**Dan Norris:** On 10 December the Secretary of State tabled a written ministerial statement concerning technical advice on the labelling of produce from the Occupied Palestinian Territories. That advice has been issued in response to consumer and retailer concern about a lack of clarity on whether such produce comes from Israeli settlements or Palestinian producers. Some aspects of the advice are relevant to produce from Gaza as well as from the west bank. However, we understand that since 2006 there have been no Israeli settlements in Gaza, therefore the issue of clarity of origin between Palestinian producers and Israeli settlement producers is not applicable.

### Recycling

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Christmas trees which were recycled in each of the last three years; and whether his Department provides assistance to local authorities for the recycling of Christmas trees. [307648]

**Dan Norris:** No such estimate has been made by DEFRA. The Government believe local authorities are better placed to make decisions on the best waste management strategy for their local area, so it does not direct or interfere in the decisions they make. This includes the facilities local authorities make available for recycling Christmas trees. It does, however, encourage local authorities to consult extensively with residents, to ensure their opinions and preferences are taken into consideration.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Christmas cards which were recycled in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [307649]

**Dan Norris:** No such estimate has been made by DEFRA. The Government believe local authorities are better placed to make decisions on the best waste management strategy for their local area, so it does not direct or interfere in the decisions they make. This includes the facilities local authorities make available for recycling Christmas cards. It does, however, encourage local authorities to consult extensively with residents, to ensure their opinions and preferences are taken into consideration.

### Whales: Conservation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there are plans to revise EU Council Decision 7146/09 of 3 March 2009 in advance of the 62nd International Whaling Commission meeting in June 2010. [307192]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Council Decision 7146/09 was adopted on 3 March 2009 and established the position to be taken by the European Community at the subsequent three annual and related intersessional meetings of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). The Council's intention was, therefore, that the Decision should remain in force until the end of the 63rd IWC annual meeting in 2011. Neither the European Commission nor member states have suggested so far that there is any need to amend the Decision.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the International Whaling Commission's Small Working Group on the future of the IWC *(a)* last met and *(b)* plans to meet prior to the 62nd International Whaling Commission meeting in June 2010. [307297]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The International Whaling Commission's (IWC) Small Working Group (SWG) last met in March 2009 and was due to meet in December 2009 to discuss the output of the Support Group. The Support Group, set up to assist the chair and the SWG in reaching a decision on a number of issues relating to the future of the IWC, was unable to reach a conclusion at its September 2009 meeting and so will continue discussions. The SWG is, therefore, scheduled to meet again in March 2010 ahead of the 62nd IWC meeting in June.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the International Whaling Commission's Support Group of the Small Working Group on the future of the IWC *(a)* last met and *(b)* plans to meet prior to the 62nd International Whaling Commission meeting in June 2010. [307298]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The International Whaling Commission's (IWC) Support Group last met from 4 to 6 December 2009. The group plans to meet again in January 2010 and the product of that meeting will be discussed in the larger meeting of the Small Working Group (SWG) in March. This will allow the SWG to review and discuss the matter prior to the next annual meeting of the IWC in Morocco in June 2010.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Art Works

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on art works in the last 12 months. [306440]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Works of art displayed in the Department for International Development (DFID) are from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions. The most recent details of acquisitions made by the GAC were published on 5 October 2009 and are available on the GAC website:

http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/information/publications.asp

### International Assistance

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which Governments contributed to the delivery of aid supplies provided by his Department in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009, and what steps the Government took in consequence in each case. [306802]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) works with other Governments to deliver its aid in two ways:

Financial aid to partner Governments

Through delegated co-operation or co-financing arrangements where one donor leads in the relationship with the partner Government.

We only give financial aid to partner Governments when there is a shared commitment to poverty reduction, human rights and strengthening public financial management. We protect our funds in three ways:

We assess the risks carefully and have our assessment checked by external experts.

We ensure that Governments have a credible reform programme to improve their systems; and provide technical support to help them.

We use safeguards to prevent mis-use of funds and ensure the adequacy of these is checked by independent experts; e.g. additional audits of particular sectors or tracking money from the Ministry of Finance to make sure it gets to the right places.

Details of where UK aid is delivered are publicly available through the DFID annual reports which are available through the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Site-search/?q=annual+report

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Leader of the House which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in her office in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305861]

**Barbara Keeley:** Since June 2007, no civil servants based in the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons have attended conferences held overseas. The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in June 2007 and information from before this time can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Leader of the House how many plasma screen televisions her office has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306084]

**Barbara Keeley:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by the Cabinet Office on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 839W. This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in June 2007 and information from before this time can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Leader of the House how many overseas training courses were attended by her Office's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305893]

**Barbara Keeley:** Since June 2007, no civil servants based in the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons have attended overseas training courses. The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in June 2007 and information from before this time can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Leader of the House how many and what percentage of Parliamentary Questions tabled for written answer by her on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307552]

**Barbara Keeley:** Fifty-two parliamentary questions for named day were tabled to my right hon. and learned Friend during the 2008-09 Session. 100 per cent. of these questions were answered on the named day and substantively.

Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the 'Guide to Parliamentary Work', at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Leader of the House how much her Office spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305658]

**Barbara Keeley:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by the Cabinet Office on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 840W. The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in June 2007 and information from before this time can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## WALES

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in 2009. [306535]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office is subject to Ministry of Justice performance guidance, from which my Department has paid £15,200, in end of year appraisal bonuses. The amounts are set by the Ministry of Justice and are in recognition of outstanding performance; seven Ministry of Justice staff received the reward.

A further sum of £700 was awarded as a special bonus under the Ministry of Justice reward and recognition scheme, for additional work performed.

All payments were non pensionable lump sums.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many days sickness absence were taken by staff in his Department in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of such absence. [305549]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office does not collect this information in this way, and obtaining this information could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305888]

**Mr. Hain:** None.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Caravan Sites: Travelling People

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the written ministerial statement of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 44WS, on Gypsy and Traveller caravan count 2009, how many unauthorised Travellers there were on *(a)* tolerated and *(b)* not-tolerated sites on land (i) owned and (ii) not owned by Travellers, in each year since 2000. [307065]

**Mr. Malik:** The Bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans collects data on the number of caravans on authorised and unauthorised sites in England. It does not provide data on the number of persons who are Gypsies and Travellers. The following table derived from the counts covering the period from 19 January to 16 July 2009 shows the number of caravans on unauthorised sites.

*Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)*

| | *Number of caravans on sites on Gypsies and Travellers' own land* | | *Number of caravans on sites on land not owned by Gypsies and Travellers* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Count period* | *Tolerated* | *Not tolerated* | *Tolerated* | *Not tolerated* |
| July 2009 | 1205 | 987 | 579 | 958 |
| January 2009 | 1279 | 1086 | 718 | 545 |
| July 2008 | 1224 | 1016 | 725 | 971 |
| January 2008 | 1054 | 1233 | 687 | 823 |
| July 2007 | 992 | 1112 | 572 | 1316 |
| January 2007 | 997 | 1255 | 491 | 795 |
| July 2006 | 964 | 1258 | 589 | 1183 |
| January 2006 | 714 | 1440 | 438 | 680 |
| July 2005 | 630 | 1342 | 673 | 1422 |
| January 2005 | 704 | 1563 | 513 | 778 |
| July 2004 | 530 | 1325 | 593 | 1816 |
| January 2004 | 610 | 1367 | 573 | 1021 |
| July 2003 | 451 | 1213 | 652 | 1663 |
| January 2003 | 505 | 903 | 539 | 1081 |
| July 2002 | 439 | 799 | 458 | 1803 |
| January 2002 | 533 | 604 | 615 | 1022 |
| July 2001 | 417 | 547 | 487 | 1895 |
| January 2001 | 458 | 507 | 379 | 1259 |
| July 2000 | 364 | 439 | 486 | 2027 |
| January 2000 | 299 | 429 | 684 | 1104 |

Data extracted from the biannual publications of the "Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans" covering the period January 2000 to July 2009

### Community Development: Finance

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support his Department gives for the recruitment of community development workers. [306988]

**Barbara Follett:** Communities and Local Government sponsors and funds the Community Development Foundation (CDF) as a non-departmental public body, to be a leading source of expertise on community development and empowerment. As part of its activities, and working with other national community development organisations, CDF provides research evidence and good practice guidance covering the role of community development workers, their recruitment, retention and management. This work will be enhanced by the results of an England-wide survey of Community Development Work, the report of which CDF is due to publish in March 2010.

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many interfaith projects have been funded by his Department since 2005; and if he will make a statement; [306989]

(2) how many grants his Department has made to interfaith organisations since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [306990]

**Mr. Malik:** The Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund was distributed over the three years 2004-05 to 2007-08, in two rounds of funding, to the organisations in the attached lists. The Fund had two categories: capacity building and inter faith activity.

A total of 73 inter faith organisations have successfully received funding in both rounds of the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund. A comprehensive list of organisations granted funding is available on the Community Development Fund (CDF) website at:

www.cdf.org.uk

Since 2008, we have been committed to a three year programme of investment and support worth over £7.5 million, as announced in our inter faith framework "Face to Face and Side by Side".

Part of this funding is being distributed through the "Faiths in Action" fund, which aims to support local activities and initiatives that have a direct link to one or more of the four building blocks described in "Face to Face and Side by Side:" confidence and skills to bridge and link; shared spaces for interaction; structures and processes; and opportunities for learning. All types of organisations at national, regional or local level in England may apply for this funding. The Faiths in Action programme is administered CDF and further information about projects and organisations funded under this programme can be found at:

www.cdf.org.uk

The other funding is allocated to a programme of investment over three years in Regional Faith Forums to support and build their capacity, in particular their interaction with local inter faith activity.

My Department also supports the Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) with an annual grant. IFN represents the collective voice of all main faith communities and in partnership with DCLG facilitated England's first inter faith week. The week ran from 15-21 November 2009 and we offered small grants to national inter faith organisations to help with their contribution and enable cross community participation.

### Comprehensive Area Assessments

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role the Audit Commission has in inspecting local development plan documents as part of comprehensive area assessments. [307205]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated December 2009:*

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

Comprehensive Area Assessment, or CAA, is a new way of assessing local public services in England. It examines how well these services are working together to meet the needs of the people they serve.

The starting point for assessments is the priorities set and agreed by local public services, based on what is important to local people. The focus of assessments is on outcomes of public services working together on people and places, and prospects for improvement in the future.

What matters locally varies from place to place. Councils and their local partners have developed sustainable community strategies to set out the challenges and agreed priorities for their areas and how they plan to achieve sustainable development. In addition, they have agreed with central government new local area agreements (LAAs) setting out improvement targets up to March 2011. Longer-term goals are set out in sustainable community strategies and local development frameworks. In CAA, we will consider progress towards achieving local priorities, in relation to these different timescales.

Judgements are made using a range of evidence. Evidence includes performance data, evidence from any inspections that have taken place in the area, the views of local people and services users and self-assessments that local partners may want to provide. As well as any self-assessment, inspectorates will draw evidence from key documents such as the Sustainable Community Strategies, Housing Strategy, Local Development Framework, Children and Young People's Plan, Joint Strategic Needs Assessments, Community Safety Partnership Plan and reports to, and minutes of, the local strategic partnership, children's trusts, council and scrutiny committees. All of this information is brought together along with information held by the six inspectorates (the Audit Commission, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorates of Constabulary, Prisons and Probation) to reach judgements about the quality of public services in the area.

The findings from CAA are reported on the new Oneplace website at:

www.direct.gov.uk/oneplace

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

### Council Housing: Rents

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of local authorities have decided to reduce their level of social housing rent in 2009-10. [306878]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** We have no data to suggest that any local authority has reduced social rents in 2009-10.

Of the 191 authorities with active housing revenue accounts at the beginning of the financial year, 189 (98.9 per cent.) accepted our offer of real help now by way of additional subsidy to reduce their average rent increase to 3.1 per cent., thus providing real help to their tenants.

### Council Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations has he received from the Local Government Association's Labour Group on council tax. [305813]

**Barbara Follett:** The three year settlement delivered by this Government for Local Government, which delivered a 4 per cent. average increase in investment, has resulted in the Secretary of State receiving no formal representations from any LGA group.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1136W, on council tax: standards, what data collections outside the national indicator set *(a)* are still being collected and *(b)* have been discontinued by his Department. [306433]

**Barbara Follett:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1645-646W, in respect to data this Department still collects.

The Department will be publishing the latest update to its simplification plan on 14 December. This lists the data that the Department has stopped collecting and sets out other work under way to further reduce the regulatory burden. A copy of this update will be available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/publications/corporate-reports/

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 965W, on council tax, whether he has made an estimate of the effects on the revenue of each local authority with a below-average council tax collection rate of their collection rate. [306552]

**Barbara Follett:** No. Under sections 33 and 44 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and regulations 3 and 7 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, it is the responsibility of individual local authorities to take account of collection rates when considering their council tax base (and the resulting revenues) during the process of setting budgets and their band D council tax levels for a financial year. As a result, the revenue of a local authority with a below-average council tax collection rate is not materially affected for that financial year by such a collection rate.

## Council Tax: Billing

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the new requirements to publish efficiency information on council tax bills; and whether research was conducted before implementation of the requirements on the comprehensibility of the information. [306411]

**Barbara Follett:** In the explanatory memorandum to the 2008 regulations governing the inclusion of efficiency information on and with council tax bills, the Department committed to review their operation this financial year.

The review consisted of two telephone surveys; the first, on the local government experience, asked how people had reacted to the information. It found that about a third of councils were contacted at least once in response to the efficiency information presented on or with the council tax bills. It also asked what operational difficulties, if any, councils had encountered in meeting the requirement. Overall, authorities did not experience the level of difficulty anticipated in their response to the 2008 consultation on the proposal.

The second survey questioned a small number of consumer groups on their understanding of the public response to the information and sought their views about its effective presentation. Provision of efficiency information was generally welcomed in so far as it meant that the public could be better informed about the work that their local authorities are engaged in.

## Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since its inception; and what the cost was of each. [307527]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department does not hold information centrally on the number of away days and conferences attended by staff since its inception. Attendance at away days and conferences are approved by appropriate line managers and there would be a disproportionate cost involved in trying to obtain this information.

## Departmental Pay

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 2003. [306455]

**Barbara Follett:** The following table sets out the total cost of performance bonuses paid to civil servants within Communities and Local Government. Figures are only available from the financial period 2004-2005.

*Total cost of non-consolidated payments*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | [1]751,150 |
| 2008-09 | 1,284,549 |
| 2007-08 | 1,018,350 |
| 2006-07 | 838,250 |
| 2005-06 | 596,000 |
| 2004-05 | 469,000 |

[1] This total cost only represents the non consolidated payments made to the SCS and is subject to change once the pay award for all staff below SCS has been implemented

The Department also operate a scheme for all staff below the Senior Civil Service under which individuals or teams may receive a small non-consolidated award in recognition of an outstanding contribution over a limited period. The maximum payment made under these arrangements is £600. Records are only available for the periods set out in the table.

*Total cost of in-year performance non-consolidated performance awards*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 116,000 |
| 2004-05 | 105,000 |
| 2003-04 | 116,000 |

In Communities and Local Government, bonus payments are made to those members of staff who are found to have made a significant contribution towards the achievement of the team's, and/or Department's objectives. Individuals are expected to show that they have exceeded the requirements set for the achievement of the objective and have demonstrated exemplary behaviour in doing so. Our senior civil service staff members are also assessed against a range of factors, including:

The achievement of their Prime Objective which focuses on the way in which they lead, manage and develop their staff;

Degree to which business objectives are met;

Delivery for Ministers;

Demonstration of skills set out in the Professional Skills for Government framework such as judgment and leadership; and

Effective resource management.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many funding streams relating to *(a)* housing, *(b)* regeneration and *(c)* social exclusion are overseen by his Department and its agencies. [306729]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a) Housing*

There are four funding streams relating to housing, under the title 'Improving the Supply and Quality of Housing': Central Government Spend; Local Authority Spend; Annually Managed Expenditure and Non-Budget Spend. These are set out in the Department's Main Supply Estimate 2009-10, which covers both the Department and its agencies, and form sections B, M, T and W respectively.

*(b) Regeneration*

There are two funding streams relating to regeneration, under the title 'Building

Prosperous Communities, Promoting Regeneration and Tackling Deprivation': Central Government Spend and Local Authority Spend. These form sections C and N respectively of the Main Estimate.

*(c) Social Exclusion*

There are two funding streams relating to social exclusion, under the title 'Developing Communities that are Cohesive, Active and Resilient to Extremism': Central Government Spend and Local Authority Spend. These form sections D and O respectively of the Main Estimate.

The Main Estimate 2009-10 can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/1340_me09_dclg_1st.pdf

This information is also published in the CLG Annual Report 2009, Annex C at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/annualreport09

The annual report also contains further details regarding the specific programmes funded through each of the aforementioned funding streams.

### Departmental Public Relations

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments *(a)* the Fire Service College and *(b)* his Department has made to ICE Ltd in each of the last five years; and to what projects these payments relate. [306509]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: The information is as follows:

*(a)* The Fire Service College have made the following payments to ICE Ltd:

| *Business area: Centre for Leadership* | *£* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 0 |
| 2006 | 20,000 |
| 2007 | 44,000 |
| 2008 | 10,000 |
| 2009 | 0 |

*(b)* The Department has made no payments to ICE Ltd in the last five years.

### Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 275W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, if he will make it his policy to review the design standards to assess whether they are sufficient to house the number and volume of wheelie bins provided by waste collection authorities to households. [307129]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Government plan to carry out an evaluation and review of Part H (Drainage and waste disposal) and its guidance as part of the Future of Building Control Implementation Plan and will introduce any necessary revisions in 2013.

We have reviewed domestic waste disposal within the waste category of the Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) as part of the Code's general review before its planned consultation later this year. Given the variability of frequency of waste collections by local authorities, we propose to amend the calculation methodology for external space to link it to the frequency of collections by the local authority. Where a local authority does not provide the waste containers and collects fortnightly, the BS5906:2005 space standards (100 litres for the first bedroom and then a further 70 litres for each additional bedroom) should be doubled. We are not proposing that you can reduce the space requirements for more frequent collections. Additionally, we propose that where the local authority does not limit the volume of waste collected weekly, then compliance with BS5906:2005 is required. We intend to publish our conclusions from the Code consultation in summer 2010.

### Fêtes

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 965-68W, on fetes, how many *(a)* forms and *(b)* permits are required for the purposes of operating a fete. [306551]

**Barbara Follett:** We have made no such estimate.

### Fire Services

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance documents issued by his Department to fire and rescue authorities on integrated risk management plans relate to *(a)* the location of fire stations and fire appliances, *(b)* the hours of operation of fire stations, *(c)* the priority given to protecting life, *(d)* the priority given to protecting property and *(e)* socio-economic and geo-demographic targeting of support. [306819]

**Mr. Malik:** Decisions on operational issues such as the location of fire stations and fire appliances, the hours of operation of fire stations and the priority given to identified and assessed risks are taken by individual Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) as part of the integrated risk management planning process.

A range of IRMP-related guidance has been issued to FRAs and is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/developingfuture/integratedriskmanagement/

The guidance, which is non-prescriptive, is designed to provide advice and assistance on IRMP and its associated processes, allowing local authorities and local communities to make appropriate decisions at the local level.

The Department has also provided each fire and rescue service with a suite of software called the fire service emergency cover (FSEC) toolkit. This toolkit allows each fire and rescue service to undertake a risk-based assessment of their area. FSEC is based upon a geographical information system, which takes account of a range of factors including socio-economic and geo-demographic data, and uses bespoke software to calculate the probable losses based on a particular set of response strategies in terms of lives lost and property costs. That then enables the FRA to determine its optimum prevention, protection and response strategies appropriate to its own area.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the recent impact assessment in respect of delays to the FiReControl projects; which fire services were identified as higher risk; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the full results of the impact assessments. [307156]

**Mr. Malik:** We undertook an impact assessment of project delay, working with the fire and rescue services. No fire and rescue service identified unmanageable risks as a result. A small number of fire and rescue services identified increased risks and we are working with them to mitigate these. The information provided by the fire and rescue service was on a confidential basis.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanism exists for the transfer of individual fire and rescue authorities control functions to regional control centres; and whether he can direct such a transfer. [307195]

**Mr. Malik:** The Government are committed to working in partnership with the Fire and Rescue Service to deliver the benefits which FiReControl will bring. This commitment is set out in the 'Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008-11'. Powers exist under sections 22 and 29 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to direct a move to the FiReControl network, as a last resort.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost of measures taken as a result of delays to the Firelink and FiReControl projects; and which of them are included in the FiReControl business case. [307198]

**Mr. Malik:** Firelink delays have resulted in additional costs in project management which have been recovered from the contractor. The Firelink project has also incurred additional costs for project management in providing an interim solution to enhance integration with existing control rooms due to FiReControl delay. The cost is estimated at £4.6 million Under FiReControl, the estimated cost of the delay in July is £40 million. We have entered into a royalties deal with our supplier on future sales of the system to recover these costs for the taxpayer while enabling the system to be developed. The cost of any delay are referred to in the FiReControl business case.

## Floods: Cumbria

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 643W, on floods: Cumbria, whether expenditure incurred by local authorities below the 0.2 per cent. threshold in respect of the recent flooding in Cumbria will be reimbursed under the Bellwin scheme. [306724]

**Barbara Follett:** No. The threshold has been set at 0.2 per cent. of a local authority's calculated annual revenue budget. This is because the Government, throughout the lifetime of the Bellwin scheme, have thought it reasonable to expect authorities to cover costs themselves up to a certain level. Every local authority is required to maintain reserves, one of whose main purposes is to meet unexpected costs. Successive Governments have retained the threshold and it has never been waived, even during the 1987 storms, the 2000 floods, the foot-and-mouth crisis or the 2007 summer floods.

The threshold applies to annual spending and not to spending on each incident. So authorities who report more than one incident in the same financial year take spending on all reported incidents into account in calculating whether they have exceeded the threshold.

## Greenbelt

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on his Department's policy on the protection of green belt land of the decision of the Planning Inspectorate of 20 October 2009 in respect of the appeal of Libra Demolition Ltd against the refusal of Leeds City Council to grant outline planning permission for a residential development. [306888]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The site referred to is not in the green belt. However, the case is subject to legal proceedings at present, so it would not be appropriate to comment further at this stage.

## Homelessness: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of people classed as homeless and in priority need are under the age of 25 years in Leeds city area; and if he will make a statement. [306600]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq32009

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need.

and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available).

Data on age of applicants accepted as owed a main homelessness duty are available at national level and provided in table 10(b) of the statistical release, found at the link above and in the Library. The first age band shows applicants who are aged between 16 and 24 years old (all applicants must be 16 or over).

Data are also available at a national level on applicant households with dependent children accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, in table 5 of the statistical release mentioned above. However the actual number of children is not held centrally.

During the July to September quarter 2009, there were 123 homeless acceptances in Leeds, of which 30, or 24 per cent. were from applicants aged 16 to 24 and 84, or 68 per cent. were households with dependent children.

A table showing the number and proportion of accepted applicants aged between 16 and 24 years and applicant households with dependent children, at local authority level has been placed in the Library.

### Homelessness: Young People

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion and number of homeless people aged 18 years or under; [307224]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion and number of homeless people aged 25 years or under. [307225]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq32009

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available, and this information is also collected.

Figures on the number and proportion of applicants under the age of 25 who were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, was given in response to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leeds, West (John Battle) today (PQ 306600).

A table showing the number and proportion of households with children (and the actual number of children) in temporary accommodation can be found in the statistical release mentioned above.

We also hold centrally data on the number of 16 to 17-year-old applicant households in temporary accommodation, and on 30 September there were 1,590 in this category, 3 per cent. of the total number of households in temporary accommodation on this date.

### Housing

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 525W, on housing, how many first-time buyers purchased a home with a mortgage in the UK in each year from 1979 to 1995. [306416]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The numbers of first-time buyers purchasing a home with a mortgage in the UK in each year from 1979 to 1995 are presented in the following table:

*First time buyers purchasing with a mortgage, UK*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1979 | 320,200 |
| 1980 | 314,400 |
| 1981 | 342,100 |
| 1982 | 433,800 |
| 1983 | 477,600 |
| 1984 | 531,300 |
| 1985 | 557,800 |
| 1986 | 612,700 |
| 1987 | 523,700 |
| 1988 | 580,300 |
| 1989 | 455,200 |
| 1990 | 409,200 |
| 1991 | 336,200 |
| 1992 | 447,600 |
| 1993 | 519,500 |
| 1994 | 532,100 |
| 1995 | 420,300 |

*Source:* Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Today there are 1.6 million more home-owners than in 1991 and 1 million more than in 1997.

### Housing Benefit

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have responded to his Department's consultation on the Housing Revenue Account. [306880]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department received 155 responses from local authorities to the consultation on proposals to reform the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system.

### Housing Benefit: Lancashire

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the incidence of housing benefit fraud in East Lancashire; and if he will make a statement. [306450]

**Helen Goodman:** I have been asked to reply.

Department for Work and Pensions fraud and error estimates, published in the Fraud and Error in the Benefit System series, provide fraud and error estimates at a national level. The estimates are derived from the examination of a sample of benefit payments. The sample sizes are too small to produce valid estimates at sub-national level, so therefore information for East Lancashire is not available.

## Housing: Carbon Emissions

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are on a householder to make adjustments for the purposes of energy efficiency to a dwelling that householder proposes to extend. [306893]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Minimum standards for energy efficiency are set out in Part L of the Building Regulations (England & Wales), 'Conservation of fuel and power'. Part L requirements apply only when certain categories of building work are carried out to existing dwellings, including adding an extension. Guidance issued under Part L sets out a number of energy efficiency provisions, in relation to the performance of the fabric and services of any new extension.

Where an extension is added onto a building (including a dwelling) and the floor area of the existing building exceeds 1,000m$^2$ then additional consequential energy efficiency improvements to the existing building may also be required.

CLG recently consulted on proposals to raise Part L standards in 2010 and plans to publish a summary of responses early in 2010.

## Housing: Expenditure

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its predecessors spent on housing in each year since 1997-98 expressed in real terms in 2009 prices. [307219]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Data on public expenditure by department and function are published annually in "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses". The latest edition was published in June 2009 (Cm 7630) and includes data from financial year 1997-98 up to and including 2007-08.

## Housing: Finance

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the £21 million for low-carbon heating systems announced in April has been spent in each region. [307018]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** There has been no expenditure as yet under the Low Carbon Infrastructure Fund but contracts are in place to enable allocated monies to be spent this financial year. The regional breakdown of committed expenditure is as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| North East | 1.7 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 1 |
| West Midlands | 3.88 |
| East Midlands | 1.5 |
| South West | 3.3 |
| South East | 5.77 |
| London | 3.5 |

## Housing: Prices

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average purchase price of a first-time buyer's property was in each year since 1997. [307268]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The average mix-adjusted purchase price of a first-time buyer in each year since 1997 is available on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141377.xls.

## ICE

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments *(a)* the Fire Service College and *(b)* his Department have made to ICE Ltd in each of the last five years; and to which projects these payments relate. [306651]

**Barbara Follett:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* The Fire Service College have made the following payments to ICE Ltd:

| *Business area: Centre for Leadership* | *£* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 0 |
| 2006 | 20,000 |
| 2007 | 44,000 |
| 2008 | 10,000 |
| 2009 | 0 |

*(b)* The Department has made no payments to ICE Ltd in the last five years.

## Litter

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have in respect of the placing of dog refuse bins and litter bins on unadopted land. [306770]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer14 December 2009]:* My Department is not responsible for the placement of dog refuse bins and litter bins.

## Local Government: Pensions

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's latest estimate is of the average level of employer contribution as a percentage of the employee's salary made by each administering local authority within the Local Government Pension Scheme. [306817]

**Barbara Follett:** No estimate has been made.

## Local Government: Reorganisation

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 1107W, on Atherton Associates, whether Ministers in his Department have met representatives of Atherton Associates in the last 36 months to discuss unitary restructuring. [306725]

**Barbara Follett:** No Minister from this Department has met with Atherton Associates in the last 36 months.

### Local Government: Standards

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are used to *(a)* collect, *(b)* check and *(c)* publish statistical data for the purposes of the (i) local spending reports and (b) Total Place initiative. [306891]

**Barbara Follett:** Expenditure data published in local spending reports are official statistics and are collected, checked and published in line with guidelines for such statistics.

Total Place data are collected and owned by the pilot areas involved on a voluntary basis. CLG has commissioned a report which will summarise and comment on these findings and will be published following agreement of a final draft.

### Marinas: Planning Permission

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning guidance is in place in relation to building marinas on *(a)* protected coastline and *(b)* adjoining green belt land. [305935]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** There is no planning policy or guidance specific to marinas on protected coastlines or within or adjoining green belt. Our policy on the latter is set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, Green Belts, available on the website:

www.communities.gov.uk

### Mortgages: Repossession Orders

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of households with a *(a)* mortgage and *(b)* second-charge loan which have been repossessed in each of the last three years. [307130]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department does not collect information on mortgage possessions and arrears although information for the United Kingdom as a whole is published separately by the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

The latest CML information is at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2456

The latest FSA information is at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/Pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/index.shtml

### National Policy Statements

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which documents will have priority in cases where the contents of national policy statements differ from planning policy statements and planning policy guidance notes. [307075]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Where applications for a development consent order are made to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), decisions will have to be made in accordance with the national policy statement although the IPC may also have regard to other matters which it thinks are both important and relevant. As the primary consideration for the IPC when it makes decisions on applications for development consent, national policy statements will take precedence over planning policy statements and planning policy guidance notes.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Churches

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether church buildings which are used for purposes other than religious worship are liable for business rates. [306920]

**Barbara Follett:** As stated in the Local Government Finance Act 1988, if church halls, chapel halls and similar buildings are used only for the purposes of the organisation responsible for the conduct of public religious worship, they are, like the church or place of public religious worship, exempt from business rates.

However, where the building is also used for other purposes, it may be rated accordingly.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Greater London

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 974W, on non-domestic rates: Greater London, what the title was of the guidance note from which the section on sub-location codes was obtained; and if he will place in the Library a copy of that note. [306553]

**Barbara Follett:** The title of the document is "Review of sub-location codes". A copy has been placed in the Library.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Public Libraries

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the operators of mobile libraries are liable for the payment of business rates. [307040]

**Barbara Follett:** Mobile libraries are not rateable. The operational base from which they work may have a liability for rates.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage rise in rateable values for an average hereditament from the 2005 Rating List to the draft 2010 rating list would entail a real terms revenue neutral change in business rates based on the 2010-11 standard rating multiplier. [306387]

**Barbara Follett:** The percentage rise in rateable values that would entail a real terms revenue neutral change in business rates based on the 2009-10 and the provisional 2010-11 small business multipliers is 18.2 per cent. This percentage was calculated by setting the Notional Chargeable Amount (NCA) for a given hereditament in 2009-10 equal to the NCA for that hereditament in

2010-11. The NCA is the product between the multiplier for the relevant year and the rateable value (RV) of the hereditament in that same year. This calculation assumes that hereditaments would not be eligible for any relief, i.e. that its bill would coincide with the NCA.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

## Oikos Storage: Canvey Island

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* minimum volume of fuel is which is to be stored at the Oikos terminal for the duration of BP's leasehold contract. [307252]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** According to HSE records the current hazardous substances consent for the Oikos terminal is for a maximum of 473,508 cubic metres of highly flammable liquids which may include petroleum and petroleum mixtures (no minimum is specified). This would be approximately 355,131 tonnes of petroleum.

## Ordnance Survey

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to provide support to the areas of the mapping sector not accounted for by the operations of Ordnance Survey. [305110]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** There are no plans to provide explicit financial support to the mapping sector outside Ordnance Survey.

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the announcement of 17 November 2009 on the Making Public Data Public initiative, when he expects to begin the consultation regarding access to Ordnance Survey data. [306349]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** We expect the consultation to be launched during the week beginning 14 December 2009.

## Planning

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many requests in each region he has received for planning applications to be called in *(a)* under an article 14 declaration and *(b)* under section 77 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in each of the last 10 years; how many of those have been called in; and if he will make a statement. [307278]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The following tables show, by region, the annual number of third party requests for planning applications to be called-in; the number of planning applications referred under section 77 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA); the number of applications called-in; and the number of article 14 directions issued. Figures before 2002 have been excluded due to potential data inaccuracies.

The power to call-in any planning application is provided solely by section 77 of the TCPA. An article 14 direction simply prevents a local planning authority from granting permission for a specific proposal.

*South West region*

*Number*

| | *Third party requests* | *All referrals* | *Called-in* | *Article 14* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 6 | 84 | 1 | 7 |
| 2008 | 8 | 82 | 5 | 8 |
| 2007 | 8 | 75 | 2 | 5 |
| 2006 | 33 | 132 | 13 | 11 |
| 2005 | 34 | 166 | 14 | 28 |
| 2004 | 20 | 184 | 14 | 24 |
| 2003 | 5 | 172 | 18 | 32 |
| 2002 | 8 | 146 | 7 | 18 |

*South East region*

*Number*

| | *Third party requests* | *All referrals* | *Called-in* | *Article 14* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 21 | 128 | 3 | 4 |
| 2008 | 12 | 146 | 6 | 2 |
| 2007 | 20 | 171 | 8 | 10 |
| 2006 | 17 | 183 | 8 | 8 |
| 2005 | 17 | 211 | 18 | 35 |
| 2004 | 6 | 178 | 11 | 6 |
| 2003 | 19 | 252 | 20 | 40 |
| 2002 | 8 | 199 | 19 | 34 |

*East region*

*Number*

| | *Third party requests* | *All referrals* | *Called-in* | *Article 14* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 15 | 65 | 5 | 4 |
| 2008 | 43 | 119 | 42 | 8 |
| 2007 | 0 | 77 | 5 | 9 |
| 2006 | 1 | 92 | 5 | 4 |
| 2005 | 1 | 124 | 6 | 21 |
| 2004 | 2 | 116 | 2 | 16 |
| 2003 | 3 | 169 | 6 | 29 |
| 2002 | 9 | 133 | 7 | 27 |

*North East region*

*Number*

| | *Third party requests* | *All referrals* | *Called-in* | *Article 14* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 9 | 58 | 0 | 5 |
| 2008 | 15 | 62 | 2 | 4 |
| 2007 | 7 | 68 | 1 | 9 |
| 2006 | 14 | 69 | 9 | 4 |
| 2005 | 3 | 67 | 6 | 12 |
| 2004 | 0 | 68 | 3 | 13 |
| 2003 | 3 | 69 | 12 | 13 |
| 2002 | 4 | 73 | 5 | 10 |

*London region*

*Number*

| | *Third party requests* | *All referrals* | *Called-in* | *Article 14* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 19 | 88 | 5 | 5 |
| 2008 | 18 | 90 | 7 | 7 |
| 2007 | 15 | 118 | 4 | 4 |
| 2006 | 21 | 111 | 6 | 14 |
| 2005 | 27 | 143 | 10 | 29 |
| 2004 | 20 | 141 | 11 | 19 |
| 2003 | 15 | 117 | 3 | 25 |
| 2002 | 24 | 126 | 14 | 30 |

*West Midlands region*

*Number*

| | *Third party requests* | *All referrals* | *Called-in* | *Article 14* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 7 | 80 | 5 | 5 |
| 2008 | 3 | 74 | 7 | 7 |
| 2007 | 10 | 121 | 4 | 4 |
| 2006 | 15 | 117 | 6 | 14 |
| 2005 | 8 | 112 | 10 | 29 |
| 2004 | 19 | 138 | 11 | 19 |
| 2003 | 8 | 127 | 11 | 25 |
| 2002 | 18 | 147 | 14 | 30 |

*East Midlands region*

*Number*

| | *Third party requests* | *All referrals* | *Called-in* | *Article 14* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 5 | 46 | 3 | 5 |
| 2008 | 2 | 51 | 0 | 5 |
| 2007 | 1 | 59 | 1 | 1 |
| 2006 | 3 | 59 | 3 | 7 |
| 2005 | 4 | 58 | 5 | 10 |
| 2004 | 5 | 75 | 7 | 14 |
| 2003 | 8 | 76 | 8 | 9 |
| 2002 | 10 | 74 | 7 | 23 |

*Yorkshire and Humber region*

*Number*

| *Yorkshire and Humber region* | *Third party requests* | *All referrals* | *Called-in* | *Article 14* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 5 | 78 | 1 | 7 |
| 2008 | 3 | 99 | 3 | 16 |
| 2007 | 7 | 89 | 0 | 9 |
| 2006 | 7 | 108 | 3 | 15 |
| 2005 | 3 | 143 | 7 | 37 |
| 2004 | 2 | 151 | 3 | 29 |
| 2003 | 3 | 176 | 14 | 27 |
| 2002 | 5 | 138 | 5 | 24 |

*North West region*

*Number*

| | *Third party requests* | *All referrals* | *Called-in* | *Article 14* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 0 | 63 | 3 | 7 |
| 2008 | 3 | 114 | 6 | 13 |
| 2007 | 2 | 82 | 3 | 7 |
| 2006 | 7 | 118 | 14 | 24 |
| 2005 | 3 | 142 | 9 | 25 |
| 2004 | 1 | 163 | 16 | 33 |
| 2003 | 1 | 181 | 12 | 29 |
| 2002 | 2 | 184 | 16 | 29 |

## Private Rented Housing: Greater London

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the average length of private sector tenancies in each London borough; and what plans he has to improve the security of tenure for private sector tenants. [307251]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Communities and Local Government does not hold the information requested. Most tenants in the private sector have assured shorthold tenancies. The legislation governing these is designed to achieve a fair balance between the rights of landlords and tenants and we have no plans to change this.

## Regional Planning and Development

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what process planning committee members are appointed to each of the development corporations. [305926]

**Mr. Malik:** There are three Urban Development Corporations (UDCs) in England: London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (LTGDC); Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation (TTGDC); and West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC). The Planning Committees for the UDCs are appointed in each case by the Board under the terms of the Committee's governing documentation, copies of which are published on the relevant Corporation's website.

*LTGDC*

http://www.ltgdc.org.uk/PDF/Planning%20committee%20terms%20of%20reference.pdf

*TTGDC*

Website being upgraded—a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

*WNDC*

http://www.wndc.co.uk/about_us/board_meeting_agendas.aspx

In the case of London Thames Gateway and Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporations, the Board may decide to appoint independent members. Where this takes place procedures analogous to those required by the Commissioner for Public Appointments are followed; although such appointments are not OCPA regulated.

## Scientists

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions he has met *(a)* the Government chief scientific adviser and *(b)* his Department's chief scientific adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303966]

**Barbara Follett:** In the last 12 months the Secretary of State has:

*(a)* Not met with the Government chief scientific adviser.

*(b)* Met once with the departmental chief scientific adviser.

## Sleeping Rough

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the number of rough sleepers in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* England. [305773]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** In 1998 there were estimated to be 1,850 rough sleepers in England with eight rough sleepers in Leeds. Since then good progress has been progress has been made in reducing the total number of rough sleepers to 464 in 2009, based on local authority street counts, which includes six rough sleepers who were found on Leeds' count.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated level of rough sleeping in England was in March 2001. [306726]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** 681 people were estimated to be sleeping rough in England in 2001.

In 1998 there were estimated to be 1,850 rough sleepers in England. Since then good progress has been made in reducing the number of rough sleepers to a total of 464 in 2009 based on local authority street counts.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion and number of rough sleepers aged 25 years or under. [307209]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The annual headline figure for rough sleeping based on local authority street counts does not include information on age profile.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of individuals receiving Supporting People grants under the rough sleeper strand were aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* under 25 and *(c)* under 40 years in each of the last three years. [307222]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Supporting People programme is a locally managed and delivered programme. Local authorities are responsible for making the strategic decisions regarding the programme including deciding what services to commission to meet local needs and priorities. People who are eligible for Supporting People funding tend to use a service, rather than receive a cashable grant.

### Social Rented Housing

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to ensure that social tenants who move to a different local authority area retain their security of tenure in respect of social housing in their new area. [306877]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Government are committed to ensuring that social tenants, wherever they live in England, continue to have the same statutory protection in respect of their security of tenure and are provided with the most secure form of tenure compatible with the purpose of the housing and the sustainability of the community. We have no intention of bringing forward proposals that would diminish the security which social tenants currently enjoy.

### Vacant Land

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tamworth of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 184W, on vacant land: Tamworth, how many acres of green space there are in each local authority in England; and what his Department's definition of green space is. [307214]

**Barbara Follett:** Data on local authority green space from 2005 are publicly available from the Office for National Statistics. These are not comprehensive as there is no requirement for national collection. More accurate and current data could be supplied by individual local authorities. Communities and Local Government do not define green space, but the Annex to PPG 17 provides examples of the broad range of open spaces that may be of public value, a significant component of which, are related to green spaces.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Crown Prosecution Service: Conferences

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) buildings attended by civil servants in the CPS there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307461]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is a devolved organisation and local managers are responsible for arranging away days and conferences. Information on the number of each that took place outside CPS buildings attended by civil servants is not recorded centrally. To obtain the information requested would require all managers to review records since 2005 and would incur disproportionate cost. The following table provides the total value recorded for conference expenditure in each financial year since 2005.

| *CPS conference expenditure* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 0.85 |
| 2006-07 | 1.05 |
| 2007-08 | 0.68 |
| 2008-09 | 0.67 |

The CPS does hold Senior Managers' Conferences each year, which bring 150 of its senior managers from all 42 areas and senior headquarters (HQ) staff together to discuss the most pressing issues facing the Service. In past years this has been held twice a year; a decision was taken in 2009 to reduce the frequency to one per year.

The following table shows the average cost of each conference each year since 2005.

| *CPS conference expenditure senior management conferences* | *Average cost (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 93 |
| 2006-07 | 112 |
| 2007-08 | 128 |
| 2008-09 | 75 |

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Law Officers' buildings attended by civil servants in the Law Officers' Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307467]

**The Solicitor-General:** The information requested is outlined in the following tables.

*(a) Departmental away days*

| | *Number of away days* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 0 | 0 |
| 2008-09 | 1 | [1]3,249.79 |
| 2009-10 | 3 | [1]5,710.50 |
| | | [2]515.00 |
| | | [3]488.73 |

[1] Whole office.

[2] Whole office half day.

[3] Senior management team, half day.

*(b) Conferences outside the Law Officers' buildings attended by civil servants*

| | *Number of conferences* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 9 | 2,816.70 |
| 2006-07 | 4 | 2,026.39 |
| 2007-08 | 5 | 1,815.23 |
| 2008-09 | 9 | 3,437.20 |
| 2009-10 | 4 | 1,752.70 |

## Departmental Energy

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Solicitor-General what the energy *(a)* rating and *(b)* band of each building occupied by the Law Officers' Departments was in each year for which figures are available. [307216]

**The Solicitor-General:** The information requested is published by the Office of Government Commerce and is available online at the following website address:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/government_delivery_display_energy_certificate_data.asp

The OGC Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement has committed to publish a summary of DEC ratings for the Government estate every six months.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department does not currently possess an energy rating.

HMCPSI's organisation is too small to come under the DECs (Display Energy Certificates) scheme. This only applies to buildings over 1,000 m2 which HMCPSI does not fall under.

## Departmental Plants

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on *(a)* cut flowers and *(b)* pot plants in 2008-09. [306279]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Attorney-General's Office spent £37.90 on cut flowers in 2008-09 for the reception area. There was no spend on pot plants.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department has not spent any money on *(a)* cut flowers and *(b)* pot plants in 2008-09.

The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office is a minor occupier in buildings owned by HM Revenue and Customs and receives a fully managed estate service from that department. This includes the responsibility for provision and maintenance of floor standing plants within the office environment, the costs for which cannot be separately identified. No monies have been spent on the provision of cut flowers.

The National Fraud Authority and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate has not made any payments for cut flowers or pot plants in 2008-09.

The Crown Prosecution Service is a devolved organisation. The Department has not kept central records of expenditure on cut flowers and pot plants in 2008-09. To provide this information would involve checking paper records across the CPS and would incur disproportionate costs.

The Serious Fraud Office has spent £2,340.00 (excluding VAT) on flowers and £2,765.36 (excluding VAT) on maintenance of pot plants in 2008-09. No new pot plants were purchased in 2008-09.

## Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many and what percentage of parliamentary questions tabled for written answer by her on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307533]

**The Solicitor-General:** Of the 29 named day questions tabled to my Department in the 2008-09 parliamentary session, 28 per cent. or 96 per cent. of them were answered on the day nominated by questioners.

## Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Solicitor-General (1) how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years; [305652]

(2) how much the Crown Prosecution Service has spent on hotel accommodation for its officials in each of the last five years; [306034]

(3) how much the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office has spent on hotel accommodation for its staff in each of the last five years; [305703]

(4) how much the Serious Fraud Office has spent on hotel accommodation for its staff in each of the last five years. [305704]

**The Solicitor-General:** The information requested for the Law Officers' Departments is contained in the following table.

£

| *Law Officer Department* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AGO, TSOL[1], HMCPSI | 51,359 | 44,036 | 56,699 | 51,948 | 27,848 |
| SFO[2] | 142,224 | 166,838 | 202,592 | 243,118 | 119,639 |
| CPS[3] | 1,130,000 | 1,175,000 | 1,447,000 | 1,260,000 | 1,248,000 |

£

| *Law Officer Department* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NFA[4] | — | — | — | — | 654 |
| RCPO[5] | — | 58,924 | 122,585 | 87,045 | 44,154 |

[1] Information for the Attorney-General's Office, HM Crown Prosecution Inspectorate and Treasury Solicitors (TSOL) is collated centrally by TSOL. In addition, officials from TSOL incur hotel expenses when working on client cases. These costs are not accounted for separately from other client disbursements and therefore the cost of providing this information would be disproportionate. However, since April 2009 these costs have been captured through Carlson Wagonlit and the year to date hotel expenditure recorded on case-related stays is £73,220.

[2] The Serious Fraud Office's spend on hotel accommodation by financial year include any hotel expenditure for permanent staff; non-permanent staff and non-Executive board members.

[3] The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not record expenditure on hotel accommodation, reimbursement of meals and other incidental overnight expenses separately. To provide a detailed breakdown would involve checking paper records across the CPS and would incur disproportionate costs.

[4] The costs given relate to the accommodation costs incurred during the NFA launch in 2008-09.

[5] In its first year, 2005-06, Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) did not account separately for expenditure on hotel accommodation and providing a detailed breakdown would incur a disproportionate cost.

The Law Officers' Departments do not have any special advisers. Furthermore, ministerial hotel costs are not recorded separately from those of civil servants and it is therefore not possible to provide information on these matters without incurring a disproportionate cost. However, details on the cost of overseas trips made by departmental Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These can be accessed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

The list for 2008-09 was published on 16 July. This and earlier lists are available in the Library of the House.

## TREASURY

### Mutual Building Societies

12. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to assist mutual building societies during the recession. [306854]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Government have taken, and will continue to take, steps to promote competition and consumer choice through supporting the development of a strong, competitive and sustainable building society sector. Government are facilitating discussions on funding and capital, with the objective of strengthening the robustness of the mutual building society model, and enhancing their provision of mortgages to home buyers. Government will continue to ensure their actions are in taxpayers' interests.

### Banks: Government Support

14. **Mr. Brazier** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what response his Department plans to make to the National Audit Office report on the Government's support for banks; and if he will make a statement. [306856]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) today.

### Budget 2009

19. **Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of the fiscal measures to help businesses he announced in Budget 2009. [306861]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer earlier today to the hon. Members for Halton (Derek Twigg) and Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks).

### International Finance Facility for Immunisation

20. **John Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on financial support for the International Finance Facility for Immunisation; and if he will make a statement. [306863]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a range of international counterparts as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

In September the Prime Minister announced a £600 million expansion of the International Finance Facility for Immunisation, with the UK contributing £250million, this expansion will support health systems in developing countries.

### Comprehensive Spending Review

21. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to announce the timetable for the next comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [306864]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer my right hon. Friend gave the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) earlier today.

### Child Tax Credit

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in the UK are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* in receipt of child tax credit. [306560]

**Mr. Timms:** Estimates of the number of households eligible for child tax credit in 2006-07, which are the latest available, are provided in table 1 of the HM Revenue and Customs publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Take-up rates 2006-07". This publication is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up2006-07.pdf

The latest information on the number of households receiving child tax credit is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. April 2009". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-apr09.pdf

## Departmental Pay

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 2007. [306434]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Information on spending on performance and special bonuses since 2007-08 is shown in table 4.D of the 2008-09 Annual Report and Accounts (HC 611) available from:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/annual_report09.htm

## Employee Benefit Trusts

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many interest-free loans have been made from employee benefit trusts in each of the last five years. [305760]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs do not keep a record of the number of loans taken from employee benefit trusts (EBTs). It is known that many loans are taken from EBTs by employees, some on an interest free basis and some on an interest bearing basis. Where loans are taken on an interest free basis the employee is liable to a tax charge on the benefit arising (s.175 ITEPA 2003).

## Financial Services and Markets Act 2000

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if his Department will bring forward proposals to extend the provisions of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 to include company registrars as bodies which may be investigated and regulated by the Financial Services Authority and the Financial Services Ombudsman. [306267]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Government keep under review those activities which are subject to regulation. At this time we have no plans to include company registrars within the regulatory framework. Whenever the Government plan any changes to the scope of regulation this will generally be subject to public consultation.

## Income Tax Personal Allowance

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the levels of income tax personal allowance; and if he will make a statement. [306842]

**Mr. Timms:** Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

The personal allowance and the age related allowance will be maintained at their current level, providing a real-terms benefit relative to September's retail price index.

## National Insurance Contributions

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much national insurance a person earning the national average wage paid in 1997; and if he will estimate how much it will be in 2010. [307207]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: The annual amount of primary class 1 national insurance contributions for individuals earning the average weekly wage for 1996-97 and 2009-10 can be found in the following table:

| | *Gross weekly wage (£)* | *Annual Class 1 NICS (£)* | *Percentage of income paid as NICS* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 359.60 | 1,616.16 | 8.6 |
| 2009-10 | 590.70 | 2,749.60 | 9.0 |

## Non-Domestic Rates: Microgeneration

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many hereditaments which benefited from the exemption for microgeneration plant and machinery in respect of non-domestic rates valuation from 2008 to 2010 have had that equipment valued and rated as part of the 2010 rates revaluation. [306834]

**Ian Pearson:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Taxation: Banks

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to disallow losses made by banks for the purpose of calculating corporation tax. [307056]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: The Government keep all taxes under review.

## Unemployment: Young People

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the effects on the economy of the level of youth unemployment. [306862]

**Ian Pearson:** Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

The Government are taking decisive action to ensure that young people are supported through the recession. This action will ensure that we avoid the long-term detachment of young people from the labour market.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: ICT

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC) plans to replace the computer systems in operation at the Child Support Agency and CMEC; and if she will make a statement. [304914]

**Helen Goodman** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]*: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC) plans to replace the computer systems in operation at the Child Support Agency and the CMEC; and if she will make a statement. [304914]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (the Commission) was established under the Child Maintenance and other Payments Act 2008 to deliver a fundamental redesign of the child maintenance system following previous failed attempts to reform existing schemes and work is now underway on the development of a new child maintenance scheme. In November 2008 responsibility for the existing two statutory child maintenance schemes transferred from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to the Commission. The Commission continues to deliver the two existing schemes through a division operating under the CSA brand name.

In late 2008 the Commission undertook a feasibility study to determine the most appropriate IT solution to support the future scheme. The study recommended that the current computer system (CS2) be replaced, and a new system be developed using a set of integrated commercial off-the-shelf products. In March 2009 the Commission agreed a contract with Tata Consulting Services (TCS) for the creation of this new IT system. Work on the new computer system is currently in the development phase.

The current IT systems will continue to be used to process the existing cases and will remain in place until the existing schemes close, currently planned around 2014.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Child Rearing

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps her Department has taken to provide financial assistance to relatives and friends who care for children who would otherwise have been taken into care. [304113]

**Helen Goodman:** Most benefits for children are administered by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC); this includes child benefit, guardian's allowance, and child tax credits.

Income support is available to single people who have responsibility for a child under the age of 10. A single relative or friend may therefore be eligible for income support if they are responsible for a child who would otherwise have been taken into care. Income support can also be paid where a child under age 16 is placed with a single person under fostering arrangements or prior to adoption.

Income support is also available to people, whether single or not, who are temporarily looking after a child out of necessity because that child's parent or guardian is either ill or absent from home.

Customers who are responsible for a dependent and are in receipt of pension credit may be eligible for one or more of the HMRC-administered benefits, none of which are taken into account as income for pension credit purposes.

If the customer qualifies for carer's allowance for looking after a disabled child they could receive an additional amount for caring.

Where a child is being looked after by a local authority and placed with a relative or friend, the financial assistance in respect of that child is the responsibility of the local authority.

### Children: Maintenance

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1202W, on the child maintenance options helpline, what the equivalent figures to those provided in the Table are for each month from January 2009. [301020]

**Helen Goodman:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Answer of 18 March 2009 Official Report column 1202W on the child maintenance options helpline what the equivalent figures to those provided in the Table are for each month from January 2009. [301020]

The information you requested is provided in the table below. This excludes information on the average time to answer calls as previously included in the answer of 18 March 2009 Official Report column 1202W. This measure has been replaced with a Client Standard whereby 90.0% of calls will be answered within 30 seconds. This information has been included in the table below as a percentage of calls answered.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

*Child Maintenance Options 2009*

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Calls received[1,2] | 6,400 | 6,300 | 6,900 | 6,300 | 7,800 | 7,500 | 11,300 | 8,400 | 13,300 |
| Calls answered[1] | 6,200 | 6,100 | 6,700 | 6,100 | 7,700 | 7,400 | 10,900 | 8,200 | 13,000 |
| Calls abandoned[3,4] | 140 | 190 | 180 | 195 | 180 | 170 | 360 | 220 | 365 |

*Child Maintenance Options 2009*

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Calls abandoned as a percentage of calls received | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | [illegible] | 3 |
| Percentage of calls answered within 30 seconds (excludes those abandoned) | 100 | 99.2 | 98.6 | 99.6 | 99.7 | 99.5 | 99.1 | 99.8 | 97.2 |
| Average duration of inbound calls[5] (seconds) | 430 | 525 | 515 | 470 | 470 | 545 | 530 | 585 | 615 |

[1] Figures for the calls received and the number of calls answered are rounded to the nearest 100.
[2] Calls received exclude those outside working hours.
[3] Figures for the number of calls abandoned and the average duration of inbound calls are rounded to the nearest five.
[4] Calls abandoned are those who have listened to the initial greeting and then: have had a short call and hung up while speaking to an agent; have hung up before speaking to an agent; or have hung up while in a queue.
[5] Duration of call includes time spent talking to customers and wrapping up the call.

## Cold Weather Payments: Derbyshire

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cold weather payments have been made in respect of households in *(a)* Chesterfield and *(b)* Derbyshire in 2008-09. [306838]

**Helen Goodman:** The available information is that Chesterfield parliamentary constituency was linked to Nottingham weather station and Derbyshire county was linked to Nottingham, Bingley and Woodford weather stations in the winter of 2008-09.

The following table shows the number of triggers received at the three weather stations in the winter of 2008-09.

| Weather station | Number of triggers in 2008-09 |
|---|---|
| Nottingham | 2 |
| Bingley | 3 |
| Woodford | 4 |

Source:
DWP Records

It is not possible to give the estimated number of payments made in 2008-09 to residents of Chesterfield or Derbyshire county as this information is not available at constituency level or county level but only by weather station. Generally the areas linked to weather stations do not coincide with a constituency or county.

## Crisis Loans

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of social fund crisis loan expenditure was spent on alignment payments in each quarter since 2007. [302244]

**Helen Goodman:** The available information is given in the table.

*Alignment payment expenditure in Great Britain by quarter*

| Quarter | £ million | Proportion of total crisis loan expenditure (percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| *2007* | | |
| January to March | 8.7 | 33.3 |
| April to June | 9.8 | 36.3 |
| July to September | 11.8 | 39.3 |
| October to December | 11.3 | 37.3 |
| *2008* | | |
| January to March | 11.4 | 34.6 |
| April to June | 12.1 | 34.4 |
| July to September | 13.4 | 34.6 |
| October to December | 14.3 | 33.5 |
| *2009* | | |
| January to March | 15.4 | 31.0 |

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

## Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in her Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305859]

**Angela Eagle:** As part of their duties, DWP officials may attend international conferences held overseas in pursuance of their departmental work and to represent the UK's interests. No central records are held on attendance by officials at conferences held overseas.

## Disability Living Allowance

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, *(b)* the Highlands and *(c)* Scotland received the (i) mobility component, (ii) care component and (iii) both the mobility and the care components of the disability living allowance in each of the last five years. [304670][1]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The available information is in the following tables.

*Disability living allowance cases in payment for the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey parliamentary constituency for each of the last five years, as at May of each year*

| | May each year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Total | 4,300 | 4,460 | 4,540 | 4,700 | 4,900 |
| Higher care and higher mobility | 720 | 750 | 780 | 830 | 840 |
| Higher care and lower mobility | 360 | 380 | 390 | 400 | 420 |
| Higher care only | 60 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 |

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1. *[Official Report, 9 February 2010, Vol. 505, c. 5-8MC.]*

*Disability living allowance cases in payment for the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey parliamentary constituency for each of the last five years, as at May of each year*

| | | | | | May each year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Middle care and higher mobility | 600 | 620 | 650 | 670 | 700 |
| Middle care and lower mobility | 770 | 820 | 850 | 880 | 960 |
| Middle care only | 130 | 160 | 150 | 150 | 170 |
| Lower care and higher mobility | 430 | 430 | 430 | 450 | 480 |
| Lower care and lower mobility | 370 | 380 | 400 | 420 | 430 |
| Lower care only | 290 | 280 | 270 | 290 | 320 |
| Higher mobility only | 480 | 480 | 460 | 450 | 460 |
| Lower mobility only | 100 | 100 | 90 | 100 | 100 |

*Notes:*
1 Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. The postcode of a claimant is used to assign the parliamentary constituency, local authority and government office region. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
*Source:*
NOMIS

*Disability living allowance cases in payment for the highland local authority for each of the last five years, as at May of each year*

| | | | | | May each year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Total | 10,270 | 10,500 | 10,830 | 11,250 | 11,740 |
| Higher care and higher mobility | 1,790 | 1,880 | 1,980 | 2,050 | 2,100 |
| Higher care and lower mobility | 680 | 710 | 740 | 770 | 810 |
| Higher care only | 160 | 160 | 170 | 190 | 180 |
| Middle care and higher mobility | 1,570 | 1,620 | 1,680 | 1,730 | 1,830 |
| Middle care and lower mobility | 1,640 | 1,710 | 1,800 | 1,890 | 2,010 |
| Middle care only | 400 | 410 | 380 | 380 | 410 |
| Lower care and higher mobility | 1,140 | 1,140 | 1,150 | 1,230 | 1,300 |
| Lower care and lower mobility | 710 | 750 | 800 | 830 | 870 |
| Lower care only | 660 | 690 | 680 | 710 | 780 |
| Higher mobility only | 1,320 | 1,300 | 1,250 | 1,260 | 1,250 |
| Lower mobility only | 210 | 210 | 200 | 200 | 210 |

*Notes:*
1 Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. The Highlands region is defined as the local authority of the claimant. The postcode of a claimant is used to assign the parliamentary constituency, local authority and government office region. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
*Source:*
NOMIS

*Disability living allowance cases in payment in Scotland for each of the last five years, as at May of each year*

| | | | | | May each year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Total | 303,900 | 311,000 | 318,090 | 327,310 | 337,270 |
| Higher care and higher mobility | 52,140 | 53,810 | 56,560 | 58,880 | 60,410 |
| Higher care and lower mobility | 17,440 | 18,160 | 19,130 | 20,230 | 21,360 |
| Higher care only | 3,730 | 3,740 | 3,610 | 3,700 | 3,800 |
| Middle care and higher mobility | 49,570 | 50,600 | 52,310 | 53,890 | 55,260 |
| Middle care and lower mobility | 41,670 | 44,320 | 46,670 | 48,910 | 51,740 |
| Middle care only | 10,440 | 10,510 | 10,170 | 10,110 | 10,270 |
| Lower care and higher mobility | 37,270 | 37,550 | 37,880 | 38,590 | 38,880 |
| Lower care and lower mobility | 17,840 | 19,230 | 20,490 | 22,310 | 24,230 |
| Lower care only | 20,080 | 20,560 | 20,810 | 21,500 | 22,680 |
| Higher mobility only | 46,760 | 45,240 | 43,140 | 41,520 | 40,060 |
| Lower mobility only | 7,080 | 7,220 | 7,320 | 7,540 | 7,870 |

*Notes:*
1 Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. The postcode of a claimant is used to assign the parliamentary constituency, local authority and government office region. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
*Source:*
NOMIS

## Housing Benefit

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to publish her proposals on the future of housing benefit. [307248]

**Helen Goodman:** As set out in the pre-Budget report, the Government intend to launch an immediate consultation on housing benefit reform.

## Housing Benefit: Islington

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average amount of housing benefit was paid to claimants who are *(a)* local authority, *(b)* housing association and *(c)* private sector tenants in the London borough of Islington in each of the last three years. [307249]

**Helen Goodman:** The available information is in the tables.

*Average amount of weekly housing benefit by tenure: London borough of Islington as at August 2007*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Local authority (council) tenants | 85.36 |
| Housing association tenants | 99.66 |
| Private sector tenants | 141.71 |

*Notes:*
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest penny.
*Source:*
Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system quarterly 100 per cent. taken in August 2007.

*Average amount of weekly housing benefit by tenure: London borough of Islington, as at November 2008 and August 2009*

|  | November 2008 | £<br>August 2009 |
|---|---|---|
| Local authority (council) tenants | 82.78 | 86.40 |
| Housing association tenants | 104.10 | 109.33 |
| Private sector tenants | 169.61 | 164.32 |

*Notes:*
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest penny.

*Source:*
Single housing benefit extract (SHBE) taken in November 2008 and August 2009

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information her Department holds on the average amount of housing benefit paid to those in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in the London borough of Islington. [307250]

**Helen Goodman:** The most recent available information is that, as at August 2009, the Average amount of weekly housing benefit paid to recipients of jobseeker's allowance in the London borough of Islington was £115.83.

*Notes:*
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figure has been rounded to the nearest penny.

*Source:*
Single housing benefit extract (SHBE) taken in August 2009

## Jobseeker's Allowance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants of jobseeker's allowance were aged *(a)* under 21, *(b)* 22 to 25, *(c)* 26 to 30, *(d)* 31 to 35, *(e)* 36 to 40, *(f)* 41 to 45, *(g)* 46 to 50, *(h)* 51 to 55, *(i)* 56 to 60 and *(j)* over 60 years old in each month since January 2005; and if she will make a statement. [307152]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, asking how many and what proportion of claimants of jobseeker's allowance were aged (a) under 21, (b) 22 to 25, (c) 26 to 30, (d) 31 to 35, (e) 36 to 40, (f) 41 to 45, (g) 46 to 50, (h) 51 to 55, (i) 56 to 60 and (j) over 60 years old in each month since January 2005; and if the Secretary of State will make a statement. (307152)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number of persons aged (a) under 20, (b) 20 to 24, (c) 25 to 29, (d) 30 to 34, (e) 35 to 39, (f) 40 to 44, (g) 45 to 49, (h) 50 to 54, (i) 55 to 59 and (j) 60 and over who were claiming JSA in each month since January 2005. Table 2 shows the proportion of total claimants of JSA by each of these age groups in each month since January 2005. These are our standard age ranges. I am sorry that the data can not be presented for the age groups requested.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the Nomis website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Table 1: Number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance by age group*

|  | Under 20 | Aged 20-24 | Aged 25-29 | Aged 30-34 | Aged 35-39 | Aged 40-44 | Aged 45-49 | Aged 50-54 | Aged 55-59 | Aged 60 and over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January 2005 | 98,660 | 155,795 | 111,830 | 101,485 | 94,290 | 85,650 | 70,985 | 68,735 | 67,180 | 9,365 |
| February 2005 | 106,750 | 160,615 | 112,900 | 101,125 | 94,555 | 85,810 | 71,120 | 68,470 | 66,890 | 9,170 |
| March 2005 | 108,020 | 160,770 | 112,260 | 100,395 | 94,105 | 85,505 | 70,925 | 67,755 | 66,025 | 8,840 |
| April 2005 | 105,885 | 157,845 | 110,935 | 98,865 | 93,250 | 84,965 | 70,850 | 67,550 | 65,925 | 8,430 |
| May 2005 | 103,860 | 155,430 | 110,355 | 98,025 | 93,215 | 85,485 | 71,640 | 67,890 | 65,485 | 8,525 |
| June 2005 | 104,110 | 151,870 | 108,705 | 96,550 | 92,560 | 84,555 | 71,090 | 67,160 | 66,050 | 8,255 |
| July 2005 | 103,765 | 164,850 | 111,520 | 96,760 | 92,165 | 84,255 | 70,990 | 66,645 | 65,105 | 8,210 |
| August 2005 | 105,820 | 176,175 | 112,900 | 97,065 | 92,395 | 84,300 | 71,205 | 66,785 | 65,500 | 8,150 |
| September 2005 | 103,980 | 167,705 | 111,205 | 95,830 | 91,480 | 84,225 | 71,155 | 66,210 | 65,270 | 7,920 |
| October 2005 | 103,990 | 162,665 | 110,385 | 94,695 | 91,265 | 84,590 | 71,355 | 66,300 | 65,615 | 7,980 |
| November 2005 | 103,835 | 162,255 | 112,055 | 96,035 | 92,560 | 86,070 | 72,980 | 67,915 | 67,500 | 8,350 |
| December 2005 | 105,280 | 168,980 | 115,565 | 99,020 | 94,780 | 87,020 | 74,670 | 68,790 | 68,640 | 8,630 |
| January 2006 | 111,765 | 178,165 | 123,640 | 104,380 | 101,045 | 93,610 | 80,880 | 73,365 | 73,805 | 9,455 |
| February 2006 | 121,270 | 185,985 | 126,575 | 105,945 | 102,610 | 95,770 | 82,260 | 74,805 | 74,290 | 9,650 |
| March 2006 | 124,090 | 187,265 | 126,700 | 105,435 | 102,955 | 95,615 | 82,545 | 74,805 | 74,490 | 9,515 |
| April 2006 | 121,830 | 184,595 | 125,455 | 104,980 | 102,050 | 95,485 | 82,780 | 74,735 | 74,515 | 9,550 |
| May 2006 | 118,050 | 178,580 | 123,780 | 103,575 | 101,210 | 95,095 | 82,105 | 74,515 | 73,620 | 9,380 |
| June 2006 | 114,515 | 177,100 | 122,775 | 102,145 | 100,240 | 94,475 | 81,210 | 73,645 | 72,615 | 9,150 |
| July 2006 | 116,195 | 186,090 | 123,940 | 101,930 | 98,880 | 93,985 | 80,615 | 72,925 | 72,085 | 8,925 |
| August 2006 | 116,475 | 189,220 | 123,920 | 100,705 | 98,290 | 93,165 | 79,900 | 72,450 | 71,405 | 8,720 |
| September 2006 | 117,550 | 185,930 | 122,450 | 99,820 | 97,715 | 92,920 | 78,655 | 72,100 | 71,305 | 8,685 |
| October 2006 | 113,685 | 178,145 | 120,080 | 98,020 | 96,255 | 91,970 | 79,230 | 71,765 | 70,995 | 8,700 |
| November 2006 | 110,450 | 172,765 | 119,320 | 97,200 | 95,800 | 91,550 | 78,980 | 71,800 | 70,770 | 8,865 |
| December 2006 | 110,165 | 172,015 | 120,645 | 97,380 | 95,655 | 92,070 | 79,665 | 71,835 | 70,580 | 8,900 |
| January 2007 | 113,680 | 181,495 | 125,975 | 101,290 | 98,795 | 96,105 | 83,775 | 75,355 | 73,680 | 9,430 |
| February 2007 | 119,515 | 186,400 | 127,655 | 101,090 | 99,485 | 97,065 | 83,650 | 74,730 | 72,650 | 9,345 |
| March 2007 | 118,140 | 183,260 | 125,760 | 98,635 | 97,350 | 94,150 | 81,590 | 73,155 | 71,065 | 9,080 |
| April 2007 | 116,725 | 173,770 | 121,300 | 94,695 | 94,030 | 91,165 | 78,585 | 71,570 | 69,290 | 8,840 |

*Table 1: Number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance by age group*

| | Under 20 | Aged 20-24 | Aged 25-29 | Aged 30-34 | Aged 35-39 | Aged 40-44 | Aged 45-49 | Aged 50-54 | Aged 55-59 | Aged 60 and over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 2007 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 91,810 | 91,150 | 88,605 | 77,595 | 70,040 | 66,795 | 8,265 |
| June 2007 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 88,385 | 83,120 | 85,640 | 75,015 | 67,625 | 64,230 | 7,710 |
| July 2007 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 87,345 | 86,500 | 84,325 | 73,665 | 66,570 | 63,190 | 7,515 |
| August 2007 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 85,940 | 83,520 | 73,560 | 66,115 | 62,475 | 7,365 |
| September 2007 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 83,735 | 81,075 | 71,690 | 63,500 | 59,660 | 6,750 |
| October 2007 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 81,865 | 79,540 | 70,475 | 62,315 | 58,060 | 6,830 |
| November 2007 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 81,025 | 78,900 | 70,210 | 61,305 | 56,740 | 6,880 |
| December 2007 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 81,700 | 79,670 | 70,565 | 60,555 | [illegible] | 6,890 |
| January 2008 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 85,665 | 84,455 | 74,805 | 63,800 | 57,900 | 7,570 |
| February 2008 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 86,420 | 84,650 | 75,190 | 63,660 | 56,715 | 7,420 |
| March 2008 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 85,560 | 84,100 | 74,785 | 63,005 | 55,770 | 7,240 |
| April 2008 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 85,305 | 84,320 | 75,115 | 63,460 | 55,800 | 7,255 |
| May 2008 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 85,400 | 84,540 | 75,455 | 63,700 | 55,680 | 7,230 |
| June 2008 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 85,440 | 84,945 | 75,970 | 63,745 | 55,935 | 7,235 |
| July 2008 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 87,975 | 87,070 | 77,720 | 65,170 | 57,450 | 7,775 |
| August 2008 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 91,775 | 90,505 | 81,755 | 68,185 | 60,080 | 8,380 |
| September 2008 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 94,000 | 93,055 | 83,855 | 69,455 | 61,105 | 8,605 |
| October 2008 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 97,155 | 96,600 | 87,385 | 72,535 | 63,750 | 9,500 |
| November 2008 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 106,430 | 106,220 | 95,700 | 79,605 | 69,815 | 11,395 |
| December 2008 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 116,510 | 116,850 | 105,075 | 86,750 | 75,440 | 13,225 |
| January 2009 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 130,305 | 131,630 | 119,115 | 98,795 | 84,590 | 16,205 |
| February 2009 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 140,150 | 146,360 | 147,720 | 133,410 | 110,590 | 93,220 | 18,500 |
| March 2009 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 152,775 | 152,725 | 154,235 | 139,955 | 115,115 | 97,220 | 19,640 |
| April 2009 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 157,215 | 157,995 | 159,960 | 145,885 | 119,750 | 100,720 | 20,550 |
| May 2009 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 160,795 | 163,490 | 149,175 | 121,785 | 101,605 | 20,635 |
| June 2009 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 159,825 | 162,735 | 149,070 | 121,135 | 100,670 | 20,085 |
| July 2009 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 157,505 | 159,775 | 162,695 | 148,860 | 120,520 | 100,245 | 19,710 |
| August 2009 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 160,860 | 164,110 | 150,265 | 121,255 | 100,720 | 19,460 |
| September 2009 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 157,200 | 160,875 | 164,465 | 150,635 | 120,550 | 99,010 | 18,695 |
| October 2009 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 160,930 | 165,000 | 151,955 | 121,355 | 99,365 | 18,410 |

Note:
Data rounded to nearest 5

*Table 2: Proportion of total claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance by age group*

Percentage

| | Under 20 | Aged 20-24 | Aged 25-29 | Aged 30-34 | Aged 35-39 | Aged 40-44 | Aged 45-49 | Aged 50-54 | Aged 55-59 | Aged 60 and over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January 2005 | 15 | 20 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| February 2005 | 14 | 21 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| March 2005 | 14 | 21 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| April 2005 | 14 | 21 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| May 2005 | 14 | 21 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| June 2005 | 15 | 21 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| July 2005 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| August 2005 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| September 2005 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| October 2005 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| November 2005 | 14 | 21 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| December 2005 | 13 | 21 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| January 2006 | 13 | 21 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| February 2006 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| March 2006 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| April 2006 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| May 2006 | 14 | 21 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| June 2006 | 14 | 21 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| July 2006 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| August 2006 | 14 | 21 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| September 2006 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| October 2006 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| November 2006 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| December 2006 | 14 | 21 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| January 2007 | 13 | 21 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| February 2007 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| March 2007 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| April 2007 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |

*Table 2: Proportion of total claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance by age group*

|  | Under 20 | Aged 20-24 | Aged 25-29 | Aged 30-34 | Aged 35-39 | Aged 40-44 | Aged 45-49 | Aged 50-54 | Aged 55-59 | Percentage<br>Aged 60 and over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 2007 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 17 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| June 2007 | 13 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| July 2007 | 13 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| August 2007 | 13 | 23 | 15 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| September 2007 | 14 | 23 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| October 2007 | 13 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| November 2007 | 13 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| December 2007 | 13 | 22 | 16 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| January 2008 | 13 | 22 | 16 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| February 2008 | 13 | 23 | 16 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| March 2008 | 14 | 23 | 16 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| April 2008 | 13 | 22 | 16 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| May 2008 | 13 | 22 | 16 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| June 2008 | 12 | 22 | 16 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| July 2008 | 12 | 23 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| August 2008 | 13 | 24 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| September 2008 | 13 | 24 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| October 2008 | 13 | 23 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| November 2008 | 12 | 23 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| December 2008 | 12 | 23 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| January 2009 | 11 | 22 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| February 2009 | 12 | 23 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| March 2009 | 12 | 23 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| April 2009 | 11 | 22 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| May 2009 | 11 | 22 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| June 2009 | 11 | 22 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 0 | 7 | 1 |
| July 2009 | 11 | 23 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| August 2009 | 11 | 24 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| September 2009 | 11 | 23 | 15 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| October 2009 | 11 | 23 | 15 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 1 |

*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

## Personal Accounts

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether the costs of establishing the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority will be met from charges made in respect of the proposed personal accounts scheme; [305962]

(2) when she plans to announce her decision on the *(a)* level of and *(b)* mechanisms for making charges in respect of the proposed personal accounts scheme. [305963]

**Angela Eagle:** Revenues from membership charges are intended to cover the costs of the scheme, including those being incurred by the Delivery Authority to establish the scheme.

A decision on the scheme's charging regime is yet to be made.

## Post Office Card Account: Castle Point

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of state benefit payments to residents of Castle Point constituency were paid into Post Office card accounts in each of the last five years. [307597]

**Helen Goodman:** The figures are not available in the format requested.

The following table shows the number and percentage of benefit accounts paid into a Post Office card account (POCA) in the Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. Benefit accounts will have multiple transactions and may include payment of more than one state benefit.

|  | All POCA | Percentage paid by POCA |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 4700 | 16 |
| 2006 | 4660 | 15 |
| 2007 | 4520 | 14 |
| 2008 | 4320 | 13 |
| 2009 | 4170 | 12 |

## Social Security Benefits

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate she has made of the number of households in England in which all resident adults *(a)* have a child under 16 years and *(b)* are pregnant women with maternity certificate MAT-B1 and are in receipt of at least one of income support, council tax benefit, housing benefit, jobseeker's allowance, pension credit and income-related employment and support allowance. [305787]

**Helen Goodman** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]*: Information on the receipt of income support, council tax benefit, housing benefit, jobseeker's allowance, and pension credit is not available on a person level basis because these are paid on a benefit unit basis.

The most recent estimate available is that there were 1,000,000 households in England where all of the benefit units had children under 16 and were in receipt of at least one of income support, council tax benefit, housing benefit, jobseeker's allowance, or pension credit.

### Social Security Benefits: Legal Aid

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the effects of the availability of legal aid funding on the ability of people to obtain benefits administered by her Department. [304148]

**Jim Knight:** Legal aid funding does not impact on eligibility criteria for benefits administered by the Department for Work and Pensions.

### Winter Fuel Payments: Derbyshire

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Chesterfield constituency and *(b)* Derbyshire received winter fuel payments in 2008-09. [306839]

**Angela Eagle:** 21,820 people in Chesterfield constituency and 175,520 in Derbyshire received a winter fuel payment in winter 2008-09.

*Notes:*

1. Figures rounded to the nearest ten.

2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. data.

### Winter Fuel Payments: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the Leeds city area received winter fuel payments in 2008-09. [306580]

**Angela Eagle:** 137,580 individuals in Leeds local authority received a winter fuel payment in 2008-09.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

Information Directorate, DWP

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Leeds, West constituency received winter fuel payments in 2008-09. [306581]

**Angela Eagle:** 14,180 individuals in Leeds, West constituency received a winter fuel payment in 2008-09.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

Information Directorate, DWP

### Winter Fuel Payments: West Yorkshire

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in West Yorkshire received winter fuel payments in 2008-09. [306577]

**Angela Eagle:** 409,140 individuals in the West Yorkshire Government office region received a winter fuel payment in 2008-09.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

Information Directorate, DWP

### Work Capability Assessment

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 300W, on Jobcentre Plus: training, what qualifications and experience Atos Healthcare professionals are required to have before making medical assessments on individuals' fitness for work. [303658]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The approved health care professionals' (HCPs) role is to carry out an assessment of the functional effects of the customer's disabling condition, and to utilise the information gathered to provide the decision maker with an impartial and independent assessment.

Atos doctors must be fully registered with the General Medical Council without current or previous restrictions, conditions or warnings and hold a licence to practice from the date the GMC issues licences. In addition they must have at least three years post full registration (GMC or EEA—European Economic Area equivalent) experience as a minimum. Alternatively for non EU graduates three years post full registration experience in the doctors native country is required. In individual cases, solely at the discretion of the CMA, the requirements that no conditions or warnings be attached to registration and that the doctor must have a minimum of three years post registration experience, may be waived.

Atos nurses must be fully registered (level 1) Registered General Nurses without current or previous restrictions or cautions with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. In addition they must have at least three years post full registration experience. In individual cases, solely at the discretion of the CMA, the requirements that no cautions be attached to registration and that the nurse must have a minimum of three years post registration experience, may be waived.

Atos Healthcare HCPs are specifically trained to provide decision making authorities with independent, accurate and authoritative advice and reports on the effects of disability.

Initial Training—varies in detail according to which benefit is involved. However all such training follows a similar basic pattern, as follows:

Theoretical Training—Theoretical training commences with a trainer-led theory-based course usually delivered to a group of trainees in a classroom setting. Trainees who are new to the work of Atos Healthcare will receive instruction in such areas as disability analysis, customers rights, equal opportunities and professional standards. Detailed technical information relevant to the benefit concerned is provided. All Atos health care trainers have undergone specific training to prepare them for the role, including practical sessions to enhance their understanding of how adults learn.

Practical Training—Practical Training is the work undertaken by the new recruits that is produced in a controlled environment. For examination centre based assessments the trainee is supervised and appraised by an experienced medical adviser as they complete their introductory cases. In the domiciliary visit based benefits the initial cases are monitored immediately on return to allow feedback to be given without delay.

Demonstration of understanding assessed by multiple choice examination—for incapacity benefit, employment and support allowance and disability living allowance the trainee is required to attain a pass mark in a multiple choice questionnaire before they are allowed to proceed to the practical training. The questionnaire includes questions on the whole range of topics covered in the training course.

Demonstration of understanding by audit—In all benefits the initial cases produced by the trainee are target monitored by an experienced medical adviser and the training cannot be considered as complete until the HCP has demonstrated that their work is acceptable. Whenever any problems are identified appropriate feedback is provided. Further cases are monitored until the work is shown to be satisfactory. If the situation is not rectified the HCP may be required to repeat the entire training process. Continued lack of progress will result in the HCP being offered no further training and no further work.

Approval—All HCPs must be approved by the chief medical adviser to the DWP and separate approval is required for each benefit area in which the HCP is involved. Approval is dependent on successful completion of all stages of their training process and ongoing demonstration that the work being carried out meets a satisfactory standard.

Written Guidelines—As part of the trainees training and ongoing support, HCPs are issued with guidelines pertaining to the benefit involved. These guidance notes provide specific technical advice about the benefit concerned, outline best practise and contain general advice about disability analysis and service to the people with disabilities.

The assessment carried out is different to the more usual type of medical examination in which the HCPs aim is to make a diagnosis and decide on appropriate treatment. A GP or specialist is not usually trained in disability assessment medicine and therefore will often not have specific experience in assessing the disabling effects of medical conditions and the way in which a customer's illness or disability affects them in carrying out of a range of everyday work-related activities. As well as this difference in emphasis within the assessment process, the HCP will, when giving an opinion, be aware of the law relating to benefit entitlement. A specialist on the other hand is less likely to be familiar with the law.

In order to provide independent, accurate and authoritative advice and reports it is not necessary for HCPs to hold specialist registration with the General Medical Council. The DWP chief medical adviser approves HCPs to carry out assessments. Approval is dependent on strict recruitment criteria, completion of a course of training in disability assessment medicine approved by the CMA and evidence of satisfactory performance.

Minimum experience criteria for recruitment are laid down both employed and contracted HCPs.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the monetary value has been of contracts entered into by his Department in Afghanistan with *(a)* Afghan and *(b)* non-Afghan contractors in each year since 2001. [305468]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information we have on non-Afghan contractors is as follows and covers contracts in Afghanistan during the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10. Comprehensive information on contracts pre-dating this period could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

| *Purpose* | *Company* | *Notes* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Intelligence Advisers | Minimal Risks | November 2008—August 2010 | 633,691 |
| Life Support Services | Crown Agents | April 2009—March 2010 | 1,061,888 |
| Police Mentors and Advisers | ArmorGroup | January—March 2009 (end) | 157,110 |
| Mobile and Static Security | ArmorGroup | January—December 2009 | 20,174,588 |
| Vehicle Maintenance | ArmorGroup | February 2009—February 2010 | 328,079 |
| Civilian airlift | Diplomat Freight Services | April 2008—March 2009 | 1,934,843 |
| Primary Healthcare | Edinburgh International | January—December 2009 | 379,543 |

Note:
The above figures include all current contracts, with figures for the specific periods stated in the "Notes" column.

The aforementioned contracts are those that are administered by the FCO centrally in London. Details of Afghan contractors/contracts run and administered locally at our posts in Afghanistan are not held centrally and thus could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Bermuda

**Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to support the Government of Bermuda in tackling gun crime; and if he will make a statement. [305981]

**Chris Bryant:** Under the Bermuda constitution, the governor has responsibility for the police. He is working closely with the Bermuda police service and the Bermuda Government to help the police tackle rising gun crime. Three overseas police forces have offered their experience and advice: a force in Florida, the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Washington DC area and West Midlands police in the UK. All three offers have been accepted by Bermuda and will be put to the best possible use.

### Bosnia-Herzegovina: Judiciary

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina on the future role of international judges and prosecutors in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and what recent representations he has received on the matter. [307110]

**David Miliband:** High Representative Inzko briefed the 18-19 November Peace Implementation Council (PIC) Steering Board on the future role of international judges and prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The PIC Steering Board invited him to consider what further steps could be taken to address the concerns raised in this regard. Officials from my Department have since been in regular contact on this issue with High Representative Inzko and his staff.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the continued presence of the international judges and prosecutors serving in the War Crimes Chamber of the State Court in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and what the outcomes of those discussions were. [307111]

**David Miliband:** The continued presence of international judges and prosecutors serving in the War Crimes Chamber of the State Court in Bosnia and Herzegovina was raised at the European Foreign Affairs Council on 8 December, where I made clear UK support for an extension to their mandate.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of recommendations in the 3 December report to the UN Security Council by Prosecutor Serge Brammertz on the continued presence of the international judges and prosecutors serving in the War Crimes Chamber of the State Court in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [307112]

**David Miliband:** The Government support the assessment made by International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia Chief Prosecutor Brammertz in his 3 December 2009 report to the UN Security Council on the continued presence of the international judges and prosecutors serving in the War Crimes Chamber of the State Court in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The Government agree that these judges make an important contribution to the justice system in BiH, and to the ability of the country to meet its international obligations, and therefore strongly supports High Representative Inzko's 14 December 2009 decision to extend the mandate of international judges and prosecutors working in the war crimes department of the Court of BiH.

### Christmas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305634]

**Chris Bryant:** This information is not held centrally, and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [305719]

**Chris Bryant:** This information is not held centrally, and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the tonnage of carbon dioxide emissions arising as a result of his activities undertaken in an official capacity in each year since his appointment. [305560]

**Chris Bryant:** The information requested is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999 the Government have published a list of Cabinet Ministers' overseas travel over £500 along with the total cost for all ministerial travel. Copies of lists are available in the Library of the House. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and all central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is actively seeking to improve the sustainability of its operations through its "Greening the FCO" programme, whose objective is to ensure that all aspects of FCO operations at home and overseas are managed sustainably, and that environmental considerations are at the heart of the way the FCO is run.

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305864]

**Chris Bryant:** This information is not held centrally, and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Co-ordination

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 14 August 2008, *Official Report*, column 125W, on Departmental coordination: Department for International Development, what progress has been made on his Department's planned co-location with the Department for International Development in Abuja; and if he will make a statement. [307169]

**David Miliband:** In May 2009, when the business case was developed and the amount of their financial contribution formally assessed, the Department for International Development withdrew from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's project to construct a new high commission in Abuja and decided to remain in their existing offices in the city. However, in order to provide flexibility, the design of the new mission is being taken forward to allow future co-location with the Department for International Development should circumstances change.

Co-location is the preferred option for both the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development and each proposal is assessed on both its financial and non-financial elements with a focus on achieving best value for the Government.

### Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what efficiency savings projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300923]

**Chris Bryant:** Building on the comprehensive spending review 07 (CSR07) programme to deliver £35 billion in savings by the end of financial year 2010-11, the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) is a key part of the Government's drive to achieve greater efficiency savings across public spending.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is working on its contribution towards the £35billion in savings as outlined in its most recent Departmental Report and forthcoming Autumn Performance Report. Despite over £100 million of financial pressures caused by sterling's fall in value, the FCO is working to achieve its OEP contribution through:

The Corporate Services Programme, which was launched in December 2008. This is expected to deliver £4 million in financial benefits in 2010-11. As of November 2009, the Corporate Services Programme had delivered £3.4 million in financial benefits from outsourcing facilities management services, localising corporate services positions overseas and rationalising corporate services activity in the UK.

Corporate Procurement which is contributing £2 million savings in Programme Spend targeted mainly at the daily rates being charged by organisations awarded accountable grants and £2 million savings through the implementation of the FCO's Consultancy Value Programme and Category Management for Consultancy.

FCO Services (FCOS) which is an independent trading fund. In addition to their £6million saving target already agreed for CSR07, FCOS will generate an additional £4million in 2010-11 by driving down their costs further and through an increased dividend.

£2.1 million to be found by further driving down of costs.

The wider FCO Family is also contributing. The British Council will deliver £2.6 million in savings in 2010-11 through its Business Transformation programme which began in May 2009. The BBC World Service has made strides in the sharing and outsourcing of back office functions, including procurement and will continue to examine its processes to help produce future savings to contribute £3.3 million.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306066]

**Chris Bryant:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2791W.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) delegates budgets for such equipment to individual internal departments and does not hold a centralised record of such purchases. The information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Standard FCO guidance applies to the purchase of plasma television screens. This is based on achieving value for money.

### Departmental Energy

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [305944]

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the energy efficiency rating is of each of his Department's buildings in London. [307421]

**Chris Bryant:** The energy ratings and bands for Foreign and Commonwealth Office buildings are as follows:

| | *2008* | | *2009* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Rating* | *Band* | *Rating* | *Band* |
| King Charles Street | 92 | D | 110 | E |
| Old Admiralty Building | 103 | E | 98 | D |
| Lancaster House | 71 | C | 87 | D |
| 1 Carlton Gardens | 58 | C | 49 | B |
| Hanslope Park | 245 | G | 155 and 619 | G |

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what redesigns of websites operated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such redesign was. [306161]

**Chris Bryant:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has undertaken two redesigns of its websites since 27 June 2007. Between March and September 2008, the FCO delivered a new FCO web platform, which included

redesigns of all its 250 websites. Then in October 2009, the FCO completed a redesign of its main site www.fco.gov.uk.

(i) The cost to the public purse of the two redesigns are as follows:

2008: It is not possible to break down the costs for the 2008 redesign because the redesign costs were part of the wider FCO web platform project, which was delivered by Logica. Logica subcontracted elements of the project out (for example, to XM for design, to Alterian for the content management system, to Verizon for hosting). The amount Logica paid subcontractors for the design work is commercially protected and not known to the FCO.

2009: In October 2009, the FCO redesigned the FCO corporate site www.fco.gov.uk. The work was completed using in-house resources at no additional cost to the public purse. The in-house resources cannot be disaggregated from the ongoing cost of maintaining the FCO web platform.

(ii) Dates of completion are as follows:

2008: Our corporate site www.fco.gov.uk launched on 31 March 2008, including with the new design. Our other sites were launched over the summer, with the final one going live on 29 September 2008, including with the new design.

2009: The 2009 redesign of our corporate site www.fco.gov.uk went live on 24 October 2009.

*(b)* We are not aware of redesigns by our agencies.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what change there has been in the number of locally engaged staff at each overseas post as a result of budgetary changes since the withdrawal of the overseas price mechanism; and if he will make a statement. [307053]

**David Miliband:** Staffing levels at posts take into account a number of factors, chiefly operational need, affordability and sustainability. Local budgets are devolved to heads of post, therefore, the recording of changes to the number of locally engaged staff as a result of the withdrawal of the overseas price mechanism (OPM) and any subsequent budgetary changes are not held centrally. To provide a breakdown for each overseas post spanning the period from the withdrawal of OPM to the present could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) alcohol and (ii) entertainment in the last 12 months. [305537]

**Chris Bryant:** Spend on alcohol for official entertainment was included within the total for entertainment expenditure in the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 38-39W. Expenditure on official entertainment is devolved to individual departments and posts and to provide a breakdown for alcohol alone could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many days sickness absence were taken by staff in his Department in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of such absence. [305554]

**Chris Bryant:** For the 12 month period from December 2008 to November 2009, a total of 21,628 sick days were taken by UK-based civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The estimated cost of this absence is £1,881,809.59.

### Departmental Standards

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the decision was made to change the corporate services programme from a five to a three-year programme; and if he will make a statement. [305416]

**Chris Bryant:** The corporate services programme has a key role to play in driving cost savings from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's back office. It was directed to deliver those savings within a three year timescale in light of the tight fiscal climate.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many consultants are employed by his Department's corporate services programme; and what the cost to date of employing consultants within the programme has been. [305417]

**Chris Bryant:** The corporate services programme currently employs 36 staff, of which nine are consultants or specialist contractors. The programme also has a number of contracts in place to obtain specialist technical, legal and commercial advice and support.

The total spend on such external support since October 2008 is £4,382,269.

The corporate services programme aims to reduce the cost of the back office by approximately £24 million year on year from 2011-12.

### Departmental Taxis

**Ian Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred against each such contract in each of the last three years. [300831]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently uses two contracts with private hire taxi companies: Addison Lee, covering the London area; and Raffles Taxis, covering the Milton Keynes area. Both contracts are used for both FCO departmental usage, and FCO Services. As FCO Services has been an independent Trading Fund since 1 April 2008, their expenditure is recorded and shown separately since that date.

The FCO uses a contracted out service to ensure the best value for money, and taxi use is verified by directorates. We are working collaboratively with other Government departments to keep future costs down by the use of a single service provider. Following an in-house review earlier in 2009 the FCO has taken positive action to reduce its taxi costs as demonstrated by the figures for the first seven months of this year. We are continuing to bear down on future costs.

FCO guidance underlines that all staff should travel by the most appropriate means according to the demands of their job and to ensure maximum efficiency and value for money. Public transport must be used whenever possible. Taxis may be used when there is no other suitable methods of public transport available—e.g. when staff are working late into the night during crises, or travelling to airports at unsociable hours—or where staff are carrying classified material for meetings.

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| | *Raffles Taxis* | *Addison Lee* |
|---|---|---|
| *Financial Year 2007/08* | 206,563 | 340,531 |
| *Financial Year 2008/09* | | |
| FCO departmental usage | 108,584 | 386,448 |
| FCO Services Trading Fund | 195,850 | 35,089 |
| *Financial Year 2009/10 (spend for 7 months to 31 October 2009)* | | |
| FCO departmental usage | 41,011 | 174,317 |
| FCO Services Trading Fund | 101,003 | 30,827 |

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305213]

**Chris Bryant:** None.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the (i) subject and (ii) location of each away day was. [306758]

**Chris Bryant:** This information is not held centrally as spending on away days is devolved to individual Departments and posts. Providing a breakdown for each one including subject and location for the period requested could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305372]

**Chris Bryant:** In recent months, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has significantly improved its performance in answering named day parliamentary questions (PQs) on time. The numbers of such PQs received and answered on time from January 2009 to Prorogation in November 2009 were as follows. Reliable statistics are not available for December 2008.

| | *PQs received* | *PQs answered on time* |
|---|---|---|
| January | 66 | 10 |
| February | 62 | 17 |
| March | 66 | 21 |
| April | 29 | 5 |
| May | 40 | 17 |
| June | 50 | 28 |
| July | 45 | 32 |
| September | 35 | 35 |
| October | 92 | 67 |
| November | 22 | 19 |

### Gibraltar: Territorial Waters

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the status in international law of the extent of Gibraltar territorial waters; and if he will make a statement. [306760]

**Chris Bryant:** We are fully confident of the UK's sovereignty over British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of the government of Gibraltar's application to the European Court of First Instance against Commission Decision 2009/95/EC updating a list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region; and if he will make a statement; [306761]

(2) what discussions his Department had with *(a)* the Gibraltarian Government, *(b)* the Spanish Government and *(c)* the European Commission prior to Commission Decision 2009/95/EC updating a list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region; and if he will make a statement; [306762]

(3) what representations he has made to *(a)* the Gibraltarian Government, *(b)* the Spanish Government and *(c)* the European Commission on Commission Decision 2009/95/EC updating a list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region since the decision was made; and if he will make a statement; [306763]

(4) what his Department's policy is on the government of Gibraltar's application for the annulment of the Spanish site of Community importance known as Estrecho Oriental; and if he will make it his policy to challenge any new decision by the European Commission adopting an updated list of such sites which does not recognise the sovereignty of Gibraltar over its territorial waters. [306764]

**Chris Bryant:** We are fully confident of the United Kingdom's sovereignty over British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW).

The UK has sought and received permission from the European General Court to intervene in support of the Government of Gibraltar's application for annulment of Commission Decision 2009/95/EC updating a list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region insofar as it relates to the Estrecho Oriental site. The court has indicated that it will hear admissibility arguments first. Our written intervention on admissibility issues will be submitted to the court in January 2010 and we cannot comment further on the contents of that intervention at this stage.

We fully support the Government of Gibraltar on this issue and remain in close contact with them. We have made representations to both the European Commission and Spain in order to object to their actions on this matter and have placed on record that the UK does not recognise the validity of the Estrecho Oriental listing. We object that Spain should have sought to have an area of BGTW listed and that this listing should have been approved. The UK is the only state competent to propose a Site of Community Importance within BGTW. During the recent negotiations on the latest proposed Decision updating the list of sites in the Mediterranean, the UK voted against the proposal because of the inclusion of the Spanish designation of Estrecho Oriental. We are considering our options in the event of a new Commission Decision including this site on its list.

### Government Departments: Wine

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the estimated total value of alcoholic beverages in the Government wine cellar is; what it was in 2008-09; how many bottles of *(a)* wine, *(b)* beer, *(c)* spirits and *(d)* other alcoholic beverages are held in the cellar; and how many alcoholic beverages from the cellar were consumed in the last year. [306112]

**Chris Bryant:** The Government Hospitality wine cellar provides for all Government Departments. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1204W. Since then the size of cellar has grown by about 500 bottles, and in value by about £85,000. In the 2008-09 financial year, Government Hospitality used about 14 per cent. of its stock, which is in line with previous years.

### Hakluyt

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1112-13W, on Hakluyt, if he will publish the submission made to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State setting out *(a)* the (i) reasons and (ii) justifications for not providing the information requested in Question 296748 and *(b)* the estimated cost of providing the information requested, required in accordance with section 7.28 of the Cabinet Office's Guide to Parliamentary Work. [302820]

**David Miliband:** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State agreed that as the requested information was not held centrally, collating the information would incur disproportionate costs for the Department. In order to provide an accurate answer to the question, all Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff in Departments in London and our 242 posts across the world would need to be contacted and their replies collated, the costs of which would exceed the disproportionate costs threshold as stated in the Cabinet Office's Guide to Parliamentary Work.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305661]

**Chris Bryant:** Spend on hotel accommodation is devolved to individual departments and posts and to provide a breakdown spanning a period covering five years could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Israel

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Israel on the continued building of illegal settlements. [306766]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: Settlements, including in East Jerusalem, are illegal and an obstacle to peace. We want Israel's 25 November 2009 announcement on a settlement moratorium to become a step towards resuming meaningful negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians. We continue to call for a full settlement freeze in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, including so-called 'natural growth', in accordance with the responsibilities in the 2003 road-map.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has reiterated the UK position to the Israeli Government on several occasions, most recently in his telephone conversation with the Israeli Foreign Minister on 25 November 2009.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of *(a)* the number of (i) rockets and (ii) arms held by Hezbollah in Lebanon and *(b)* the number of militia being trained by Hezbollah in Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [306099]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The latest report from the UN Secretary General on UN Security Council Resolution 1701 highlighted that Hezbollah continues to maintain a substantial military capacity distinct from that of the Lebanese state, in direct contravention of Security Council Resolutions 1559 and 1701. It also makes clear that Hezbollah have not challenged allegations regarding its armament and increased military capability.

All these reports are available on the UN website at:

http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/sgrep09.htm

This, combined with statements made by Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary General of Hezbollah, suggest that Hezbollah has increased its military capacity. However, we lack definitive figures.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the blockade of Gaza on *(a)* the level of separation between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and East Jerusalem, *(b)* efforts to establish a two-state solution in the Middle East, *(c)* the security situation in (i) Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and (ii) the Middle East and *(d)* the likelihood of war in the region. [306774]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Gaza conflict and Israeli restrictions on Gaza have reversed earlier economic and social development gains. These restrictions do not only affect the every day lives of innocent civilians but also increase the challenges in achieving a comprehensive and just peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. We will continue to press the Israeli government to ease border restrictions in Gaza. We also call on them to reduce the barriers to the movement of people and goods between the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to his comments on the BBC World at One programme on 30 December 2008, what assessment he has made of whether the objectives he has set for the Government's policy in respect of Hamas have been achieved; and what the benefit is of this policy. [306786]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We continue to believe that it is not productive to talk to Hamas. The military wing of Hamas is proscribed in the UK as a terrorist organisation: it fires rockets at Israeli civilians and puts ordinary Palestinians in harm's way. We believe that to talk to Hamas while it continues to use violence would simply undermine those Palestinians who are committed to peace.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on *(a)* UK nationals and *(b)* nationals of other European countries involved in shooting incidents at the Erez crossing in 2009. [306788]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We are aware of two incidents that have involved the Israeli Defence Forces firing warning shots at EU nationals at the Erez crossing in 2009. One of these incidents involved an official from the British consulate-general in Jerusalem, and the other an official from another EU consulate-general in Jerusalem. There were no casualties in either incident. We have made our concerns clear to the Israeli authorities.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he most recently reviewed the Government's policy on Gaza. [306790]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government constantly keep their policies under review. The UK continues to be gravely concerned regarding the humanitarian situation in Gaza, and we urge the Israeli authorities to implement fully UN Security Council Resolution 1860 and reduce restrictions at the Gaza crossings. We also call on those holding the abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit to release him without delay. These concerns were clearly highlighted in the 8 December EU Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Prime Minister last asked his Israeli counterpart to end the blockade of Gaza. [306799]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister reiterated to the Israeli Prime Minister on 14 October 2009 the urgent need to permit the flow of essential humanitarian aid and reconstruction material into Gaza.

## Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist in preparations for the London 2012 Olympics. [306686]

**Chris Bryant:** *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will be supporting certain international aspects of the Olympic games and Paralympic games, including looking after visiting Heads of State and Government and liaising with countries participating in the games. The FCO currently has a small team in place, co-ordinating our preparations for the games. Other staff are working on London 2012-related projects, including security and protocol issues, and a public diplomacy campaign that seeks to use the games to promote Britain's image abroad.

## Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent meetings he has had with representatives from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe; and if he will make a statement. [305276]

**Chris Bryant:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Secretary-General, Marc Perrin De Brichambaut, when he attended the OSCE Informal Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Corfu in June 2009. The Secretary-General also met the then Minster for Europe (Caroline Flint), when he visited London in February.

## Overseas Territories Consultative Council

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the recently held Overseas Territories Consultative Council meeting. [307379]

**Chris Bryant:** I had open and frank exchanges with the Overseas Territory leaders (except Gibraltar, which did not attend) at this year's Overseas Territories Consultative Council on a wide range of subjects. We agreed the following in a communiqué issued after the meeting:

to continue discussions on the relationship between the UK and the Overseas Territories;

to recommit to the principles of good governance;

that the UK will, where appropriate, assist the Territories to meet their international obligations;

the importance of respect for human rights and the need to safeguard children;

to finalise action within Territories to enable extension to all the populated Territories of the International Labour Organisation convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour and the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, during the course of 2010;

the importance of managing public finances so that Territories are better placed to guard against downturns in their economies;

the need to review the Overseas Territories borrowing guidelines;

the importance of implementing recommendations from the Foot review of British offshore financial centres;

that the UK will support efforts to tackle crime in the Overseas Territories.

### Palestinians

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to visit Gaza. [306792]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no immediate plans to visit Gaza.

### Palestinians: Human Rights

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he received from the organisation Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights on 30 March 2009; what consideration he has given to these representations; and if he will make a statement. [304734]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* We have received several letters from the organisation Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights throughout 2009. They highlighted human rights concerns including border restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities in Gaza and the administrative detention of Palestinian prisoners without charge.

We take the protection of human rights very seriously. The UK have consistently pressed the Israeli authorities to ease border restrictions in Gaza and have also urged them to ensure that their legal processes are in accordance with international law and democratic norms.

### Panchen Lama

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent information he has obtained in respect of the whereabouts and health of the Panchen Lama. [307032]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have consistently raised the case of the Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, in previous rounds of our regular UK/China Human Rights Dialogues. Most recently I also included his name on a case list handed to the Chinese authorities during my visit to China in September 2009. In this we asked the Chinese to implement the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child report CRC/C/15/Add.271 which the UK supports. This stated that China should allow an independent expert to visit Gedhun Choekyi Nyima to check his living conditions and well-being and that there are no restrictions on his freedom of movement and that he is free to select a career.

The Chinese responded that

> "Gedhun Choekyi Nyima is an ordinary Chinese Tibetan young man and is of good health. At present, he is enjoying a normal life together with his family and receiving good education. The family have repeated many times that they do not want their normal life to be disturbed and that this wish should be sufficiently well respected".

We will continue to raise this case when appropriate.

### Somalia

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to send British personnel to Somalia as part of an EU security sector reform mission. [305764]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK has no plans to send British personnel into Somalia as part of the EU security sector reform mission. There are ongoing discussions in the EU about the possibility of a Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission for Somalia to train Somali security forces.

If a CSDP mission were to be deployed, the training would take place in another country or other countries because of the fragile security situation inside Somalia. The issue is still being considered and a final decision on a possible CSDP mission will be subject to appropriate assessments, consultation and agreement. Any UK contribution would be dependent on our available resources and the operational needs identified.

### Spain: EC Presidency

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of Spain's agenda for its forthcoming Presidency of the EU. [307378]

**Chris Bryant:** We understand that the Spanish Prime Minister, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, will announce the formal programme for their presidency on 15 December 2009. However, the Spanish have already said they will focus on implementing the Lisbon treaty, following up the Copenhagen summit on climate change, putting in place an economic reform strategy for the next 10 years, driving progress on jobs and growth, and bringing Europe closer to its citizens. Innovation and equality will also be important themes. We welcome these emphases.

### Trade Unions

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist the work of trades unions overseas; and if he will make a statement. [306469]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* We have a strong relationship with the Trade Union Congress (TUC) and, through them and through our overseas missions, we work closely with the trade union movement to reach a wide cross-section of civil society overseas. Our worldwide network and the TUC's links with trade union movements around the world mean we are able to work together on issues of mutual concern, such as democracy, human rights and rule of law.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) ministers meet formally with senior TUC officials and representatives three times a year at the Joint Advisory Council to discuss international issues; the most recent of these meetings took place on 3 September 2009, and another is planned for January 2010. The TUC and the FCO have designated official contact points, who meet on a regular basis to ensure action is taken on recommendations from the Joint Advisory Council meetings. Additionally, ad hoc meetings take place to discuss geographical and thematic issues.

### Turks and Caicos Islands: Human Rights

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the recent suspension of human rights legislation in the Turks and Caicos Islands; and if he will make a statement. [307236]

**Chris Bryant:** While parts of the constitution have been suspended, the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual are still protected under part 1 of the Turks and Caicos Constitution Order 2006, which remains in force. The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) Constitution (Interim Amendment) Order 2009 has removed the constitutional right to trial by jury in certain criminal cases.

The Order in Council suspending ministerial Government and the House of Assembly for a period of up to two years was brought into force on 14 August 2009. The order left the human rights provisions of the constitution in place except for the constitutional right to trial by jury in TCI, which was suspended. This provides the possibility in future of having trials by judge alone in the TCI Supreme Court in appropriate cases. This is wholly consistent with the European convention on human rights, which does not require trial by jury. A number of countries have criminal trials without a jury and even in the UK there is no right to trial by jury in every case.

On suspension of the House of Assembly, the UK withdrew its acceptance of protocol 1, article 3 of the European convention on human rights in respect of the Turks and Caicos Islands, which requires contracting parties to hold free elections at reasonable intervals by secret ballot, under conditions which will ensure the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature. However, this withdrawal is for a limited period until reforms have been implemented and elections held by July 2011.

With the approval of the Governor, the TCI Advisory Council and the TCI Human Rights Commission, the right of individual petition, which had previously been accepted in respect of TCI for five years was accepted on a permanent basis in October.

## JUSTICE

### Ashwell Prison

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on repair and reconstruction of HM Prison Ashwell since the riot of April 2009. [306524]

**Mr. Straw:** Information held by the establishment shows that the costs of reconstruction currently stand at approximately £818,700 and this is set out in the attached table. Each item is rounded up to the nearest [illegible]0 or £1,000 for items below and above £1,0000 respectively.

The police investigation is continuing.

| | *Location of costs* | *Costs (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Four residential wings—replacement glass, fire alarm arrangements, H&S equipment, etc. | 30,000 |
| 2 | Refurbishing the OMU Building—fire damage, complete refurbishment. | 634,000 |
| 3 | Repairing the gymnasium—Repairs to most windows, internal doors, ceiling tiles fire damage decoration etc. | 20,000 |
| 4 | Healthcare/Reception repairs to windows, internal doors decoration | 10,000 |
| 5 | Plastics Moulding Workshop—Fire damage and redecoration, replacement machinery | 50,000 |
| 6 | Maintenance Offices—Repairs to windows, internal doors, decoration | 10,000 |
| 7 | Potato Pak Building—Totally destroyed by fire | 8,500 |
| 8 | Repairing D Wing Annex—Replacement of every window pane, some external lights, decoration etc. | 10,000 |
| 9 | Costs of redecorating all other workshops, redecoration replacement windows | 10,000 |
| 10 | Boarding up buildings | 6,900 |
| 11 | Compensation to staff and prisoners for property | 4,300 |
| 12 | Other costs | 25,000 |
| | Total | 818,700 |

### Christmas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305630]

**Mr. Wills:** Since the Ministry's creation in May 2007, the following amounts have been spent on Christmas trees in its headquarters estate, inclusive of VAT and decorations. The 2008-09 figure includes the purchase of reusable lights.

| *Financial year* | £ |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 1,000 |
| 2008-09 | 970 |
| 2007-08 | 924 |

The costs are for three trees, one for each building in the MOJ HQ estate for each year.

The information for agencies can be gathered only at a disproportionate cost. All four of the Ministry's agencies (National Offender Management Service; HM Courts Service; Tribunals Service and Office of the Public Guardian) have regionalised structures. Each individual building orders its own trees and decorations.

It would incur disproportionate cost to investigate where the trees had been sourced, the sustainability of those sources and the process for their disposal. The decisions on what Christmas trees to purchase are left at local management level.

The Ministry is committed to sustainable development and improving its environmental performance, including the achievement of key targets to:

Reduce $CO_2$ emissions by 30 per cent.

Recycle 75 per cent. of waste

Reduce the waste we generate by 25 per cent. and

Reduce water consumption by 25 per cent.

### Courts: Physiotherapists

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provisions in rules of court permit physiotherapists to appear as expert witnesses in cases involving low-value personal injury claims in road traffic accidents. [305828]

**Bridget Prentice:** There are no specific provisions in rules of court permitting physiotherapists to appear as expert witnesses in cases involving low-value personal injury claims in road traffic accidents. In these claims the court may allow the reasonable costs of obtaining a medical report and attendance of an expert medical witness where the expert evidence was reasonably required.

### Health Services: Channel Islands and Isle of Man

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* educational institutions and *(b)* businesses in the Isle of Man of the decision of the National Health Service to terminate its reciprocal agreement with effect from April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [306507]

**Mr. Wills:** No such assessments took place. The Department of Health ended the bilateral agreement with the Channel Islands (including Jersey and Guernsey) and gave notice on the agreement with the Isle of Man, as it considers that they are out of place considering the wide availability of travel insurance, and there is little robust data to justify the business case and value for money for the national health service.

### Pleural Plaques

**Chloe Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will provide the response to his Department's consultation on supporting people with pleural plaques launched in July 2008. [306047]

**Bridget Prentice:** The House of Lords decision has raised extremely complex and difficult issues which have required very careful consideration within Government. It has also been important to look beyond the issue of pleural plaques itself to consider how people who have been exposed to asbestos can be supported much more widely. We are actively considering all these issues in order to be in a position to publish a final response as soon as possible.

### Prisoners: Suicide

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners committed suicide in each month of 2009. [306525]

**Mr. Straw:** The number of self-inflicted deaths in prison establishments in England and Wales for each month of 2009 to date, are as follows:

| | *Self-inflicted deaths* |
|---|---|
| January | 10 |
| February | 4 |
| March | 4 |
| April | 7 |
| May | 6 |
| June | 3 |
| July | 7 |
| August | 5 |
| September | 2 |
| October | 5 |
| November | 3 |
| December | — |

*Note:*

There are a further five deaths awaiting classification. The National Offender Management Service's definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

Every death in prison is a tragedy, and affects families, staff and other prisoners deeply. Ministers, the Ministry of Justice and the National Offender Management Service are committed to learning from each death and to reducing the number of such incidents. Good care and support from staff save many lives, but such instances go largely unreported. Prisons successfully keep safe in any given month approximately 1,500 prisoners assessed to be at particular risk of suicide or self-harm. Deaths in prisons are among the most scrutinised of all incidents and each case is subject to a police investigation and independent investigation by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman. Robust systems are in place for monitoring all deaths and learning from them.

The National Offender Management Service has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This requires proactively identifying prisoners at risk of suicide and self-harm. The strategy encompasses a wide spectrum of NOMS and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Prisoners identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm are cared for using the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures.

### Prisoners: Voting Rights

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take in response to the recent Council of Europe resolution on prisoner voting rights in the UK. [307595]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government note the interim resolution by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers' Deputies in the case of Hirst (No 2). We have recently completed a two-stage consultation on the voting rights of convicted prisoners. We are carefully analysing the responses to the consultation. The Government take their obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights seriously. But we must arrive at an approach which respects the judgment of the Court in Hirst (No 2) while at the same time taking into account the political context and traditions of the United Kingdom.

### Prisons: Visits

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons in England and Wales allow visits to inmates on Christmas day. [306526]

**Mr. Straw:** Visits do not normally take place on Christmas day, Boxing day or Good Friday. Some prisons may have their own local arrangements where there may be some provision for visits on these days. However, this information is not recorded centrally and could only be obtained by approaching 135 prisons and young offender institutions across England and Wales.

### Reintegration Support Scheme

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department incurred on its reintegration support scheme in 2008-09. [303683]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

The cost of the 2008-09 Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration programmes is currently not available as it is subject to audit.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to respond to question 301329, tabled by the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire on 19 November 2009, on departmental working practices. [305637]

**Mr. Straw:** I replied to the hon. Member's question on 7 December 2009. I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in replying, but I concluded that the original draft answer needed clarification and referred it back.

### Young Offenders: Children in Care

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of juveniles imprisoned for breach of *(a)* bail and *(b)* statutory orders had previously been looked after in each of the last three years. [305303]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on the number of juveniles in custody in England and Wales who had previously been looked after is not held centrally.

However, a joint Youth Justice Board and HM Inspectorate of Prisons report "Children and Young People in Custody 2008-2009" published on 9 December 2009 reported on a survey of every juvenile prison establishment in England and Wales. Responses to the survey indicated that a quarter of young men and nearly half of young women had been in care at some point.

## HEALTH

### Abortion

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of the abortion procedures undertaken on non-UK residents in hospitals and clinics in England in 2008. [306031]

**Gillian Merron:** There is no cost to the national health service for non-UK residents receiving non-emergency abortions as these will be privately funded.

Data for the cost of emergency abortions for non-UK residents are not held centrally. It is important to note that emergency abortions are a rare occurrence.

### Cholesterol

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department's Prevention Strategy will be published; and whether it will include reference to cholesterol as a risk factor for cardiovascular disease. [306122]

**Ann Keen:** We have recently published "NHS 2010-2015: From Good to Great. Preventative, People Centred, Productive". A copy of this has been placed in the Library. As set out in the section on supporting people to stay healthy, we are rolling out NHS health checks, as part of the range of initiatives that are aimed at preventing heart disease, stroke, diabetes and chronic kidney disease.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to encourage people to take steps to reduce their cholesterol levels. [306123]

**Ann Keen:** Everyone between the ages of 40-74 will be made aware of their cholesterol levels and told how they can reduce it through the NHS health check programme. It will assess people's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes and will support people to reduce or manage that risk through individually tailored advice.

These checks will be based on straightforward questions and measurements such as age, sex, family history, height, weight and blood pressure. They would also include a simple blood test to measure cholesterol.

Diet and exercise are important parts of any strategy to minimise risk factors for heart disease, including cholesterol. Earlier this year we launched the Change4Life Campaign which aims to help everyone to "eat well, move more and live longer".

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England have high cholesterol rates; and if he will make a statement. [306124]

**Ann Keen:** According to data from the Quality Outcomes Framework that are available, approximately 700,000 adults in England had a cholesterol in 2008-09 of more than five millimoles per litre.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect of high cholesterol on the population; [306125]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect of raised cholesterol on the cardiovascular health of the population; [306126]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of raised cholesterol as a cause of disability in England. [306127]

**Ann Keen:** We know that raised cholesterol levels are a significant risk factor for all cardiovascular diseases including coronary heart disease and stroke.

Everyone between the ages of 40-74 (who has not been diagnosed with a vascular disease) will be made aware of their cholesterol levels and told how they can reduce it through the NHS health check programme. It will assess people's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes and will support people to reduce or manage that risk through individually tailored advice.

These checks will be based on straightforward questions and measurements such as age, sex, family history, height, weight and blood pressure. They would also include a simple blood test to measure cholesterol.

The Quality and Outcomes Framework of the general practitioner contract includes quality indicators that provide incentives for practices to measure and control cholesterol in people who have been diagnosed with cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease.

## Christmas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305649]

**Phil Hope:** The mandatory requirement for Departments prior to 1 April 2009 was that Christmas trees should be procured from legal sources which are preferably sustainable. The requirement since 1 April 2009 is that Christmas trees must also be purchased from sustainable sources. The Government have developed a set of criteria and a definition of sustainable which can be found on the latest guidance, the 'Timber Procurement Advice Note (TPAN April 2009)'. This is available on the Central Point of Expertise on Timber website at:

www.proforest.net/cpet/files/TPAN

All of the trees purchased in 2009 came from a sustainable source. The costs include the delivery, installation and collection and sustainable disposal for each tree. For all trees purchased in 2009 new trees are planted. The costs in 2009 represent the purchase of three small trees for Richmond House to replace artificial trees that were broken and one large tree in Skipton House at a cost of £2,485. The cost of the large tree is broken down as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Cost of tree and decoration | 1,786 |
| Collection and disposal | 375 |
| VAT at 15 per cent. | 324 |

We purchased a smaller tree in Skipton House in 2009 saving £418 on the costs incurred in 2008

The following table summarises the number and cost of all the Christmas trees purchased by the Department and its agencies in each of the last five years.

*Department of Health*

| | *Trees purchased* | *Total cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 1 | 1,145 |
| 2006 | 1 | 1,750 |
| 2007 | 2 | 2,162 |
| 2008 | 1 | 2,903 |
| 2009 | 4 | 3,235 |

*Medicines and Health Regulatory Authority (MHRA)*

MHRA does not hold records of any purchases before 2006. Details of Christmas trees purchased since 2007 are as follows:

| | *Trees purchased* | *Total cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 1 | 2,705.50 |
| 2008 | 1 | 2,674.00 |
| 2009 | 0 | 0 |

The tree purchased in 2007 was provided as part of the landlord service charge and we have no records of the source of this tree. The tree purchased in 2008 came from a sustainable forest and a tree was replanted. When finished with use the tree was collected, shredded and turned into compost.

The Purchasing and Supply Agency has not purchased any trees.

## Chronically Sick

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the scheduled dates are for *(a)* commencement and *(b)* completion of the mid-term review for the National Service Framework for Long-Term Conditions. [306528]

**Ann Keen:** The mid-term review is scheduled to commence early next year, and be completed by late spring 2010.

## Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305682]

**Phil Hope:** The Department of Health has spent £4,890 on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in the last 12 months.

## Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which conferences held overseas have been attended by officials of his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305863]

**Phil Hope:** Information about attendance at individual conferences and the costs of such attendance is not collected centrally.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many overseas training courses were attended by officials of his Department in the latest period for which figures are available; how many such officials attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305894]

**Phil Hope:** Training provided to departmental staff is delivered primarily through short (half-day or one-day) training courses, taking place on departmental premises whenever possible. Data held centrally show that only in exceptional cases do staff participate in training outside the United Kingdom. In the past year there has been one centrally recorded case of overseas training, at a total cost of £18,000.

Any training organised locally by teams is not recorded centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to collect.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of Parliamentary Questions tabled for written Answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307543]

**Phil Hope:** 840 questions were tabled for answer on a named day, of which 789 (94 per cent.) were answered on the day specified.

### Dietary Supplements: Health Hazards

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many illnesses attributable to the use of food supplements were recorded in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [307121]

**Gillian Merron:** There is no mandatory adverse event reporting system for food supplements, therefore there are no central records held of the number of illnesses attributable to the use of food supplements.

### Drugs: Prisons

**Mike Wood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what interventions are used to meet the needs of *(a)* low, *(b)* moderate and *(c)* severe drug misusers in prisons; and if he will make a statement; [307376]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Drug Interventions Programme in prisons; and if he will make a statement. [307377]

**Phil Hope:** The interventions used to meet the range of needs of drug misusers in prisons are clearly outlined in "Drug misuse and dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management (Department of Health (England), the Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Executive, 2007)", a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

The 2007 clinical guidelines provide guidance on the treatment of drug misuse in the United Kingdom. They are based on current evidence and professional consensus on how to provide drug treatment for the majority of patients, including within prisons.

The 2007 clinical guidelines do not provide rigid protocols on how clinicians must provide drug treatment for all drug misusers (all drug misusers includes those with low, moderate and severe misuse). Neither does this guidance override the individual responsibility of clinicians to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient (and guardians and carers if appropriate). In instances where clinicians operate outside the framework of this guidance, they should be able to demonstrate the rationale for their decisions.

An Independent evaluation of the Integrated Drug Treatment System in prisons has been commissioned by the Department. The independent evaluation began in 2008 and is timetabled to be completed in 2011.

### Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children under 18 years old received opiate substitutes or methadone prescriptions in each year since 2000. [305757]

**Gillian Merron:** The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) records the number of people in specialist drug treatment who are reported as receiving a prescribing intervention. The vast majority of such adults are receiving methadone or buprenorphine. Of the remainder, some receive other substitute medication and some receive symptomatic treatment in conjunction with psychosocial treatment. NDTMS has recorded data since 2004-05. NDTMS does not record activity by general practitioners who are not specialists in drug treatment who may also prescribe substitute opioids for drug misusers.

Data from 2004-05 are presented in the following table. Data for 2008-09 have been calculated using a new, more accurate methodology. Revised data for previous years, recalculated to be consistent with the improved methodology, will be published early next year.

*Individuals[1] in drug treatment in England receiving a prescribing intervention (usually alongside other interventions)*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 88,196 |
| 2005-06 | 107,093 |
| 2006-07 | 118,107 |
| 2007-08 | 131,468 |
| 2008-09[2] | 147,504 |

[1] From 2004-05 to 2007-08, data included adults and young people. For 2008-09 the figure includes only adults.

[2] Methodology changed to count adults only and improve accuracy. Figures for this year are therefore not directly comparable with previous years.

In 2007-08, 253 young people in specialist treatment in England were recorded in the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA)'s published figures ('Getting to Grips, 2009') as receiving a pharmacological intervention, of which 77 were receiving only this intervention (the remainder received other interventions in addition). A pharmacological intervention in the case of a young person will normally be symptomatic treatment, rather than substitute prescribing.

Prior to 2007-08, young people were included in the general data above. Young people's data for 2008-09 will be published later this month.

### Food Standards Agency: Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Food Standards Agency has spent on hotel accommodation for its officials in each of the last five years. [306035]

**Gillian Merron:** The Food Standards Agency does not separately record expenses on hotel accommodation. The cost of separating hotel expense claims from others would be at disproportionate cost.

### Food Standards Agency: Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what redesigns of websites operated by the Food Standards Agency have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306200]

**Gillian Merron:** There have been no redesigns of websites operated by the Food Standards Agency since 27 June 2007.

### Health Education: Sex

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what sexual health campaigns *(a)* directed at students and *(b)* in the Greater Manchester area his Department is undertaking. [305698]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department is currently undertaking sexual health campaign activity for young people, including students, in Greater Manchester.

The 'Any Plans Tonight' campaign will run on billboards in Manchester city centre and on selected bus shelters in wards with high rates of under-18 conceptions for two weeks starting on 29 December 2009. The campaign is aimed at 16 to 18-year-olds and aims to remind young people of the need to use condoms and contraception and promotes local contraception and sexual health services. In addition, the Manchester Metropolitan University branch of the National Union of Students plans to distribute materials for use at their local club nights and on the 'Show a Condom Grab a Gift' event.

At national level the Department works with the National Union of Students in England on an ongoing basis. The Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families are currently running an England-wide joint campaign aimed at young people including students. The first part of this campaign, which covers contraception choices and is called 'Contraception. Worth Talking About', was launched on 30 November 2009.

### Health Services: Isle of Man

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library details of *(a)* arrangements, *(b)* contracts and *(c)* tariffs relating to the commissioning by the Isle of Man Government of elective health service treatments handled by North West Specialist Commissioning team of the NHS that have been in operation over the past decade; and if he will make a statement. [300313]

**Gillian Merron** *[holding answer 25 November 2009]:* A copy of an agreement between NHS North West Specialist Commissioning team and the Isle of Man Government has been placed in the Library. Tariffs used are in line with national policy with regard to payment by result.

### Health Services: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what change there has been in the financial position of *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* hospital trusts in Leeds in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [306590]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is shown in the following table:

*£000*

| | *2007-08 Annual Accounts Surplus/(Deficit)* | *2008-09 Annual Accounts Surplus/(Deficit)* | *2009-10 Q2 Forecast Outturn Surplus/(Deficit)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Leeds Primary Care Trust (PCT) | 3,312 | 5,150 | 5,000 |
| Leeds Teaching Hospital National Health Service Trust | 3,093 | 471 | 0 |

*Notes:*

The financial positions of all national health service organisations that report to the Department are published quarterly on the Department's website. These publications also include an assessment of the NHS organisations' performance against the NHS performance framework. This information can be accessed via the following link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_087335

*Source:*

The Department of Health.

### Hospitals: Food

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures his Department has put in place to assess patient satisfaction with hospital meals. [306672]

**Ann Keen:** The Department is able to measure and assess patient satisfaction with hospital meals via the Care Quality Commission's annual national in-patient survey.

This survey asks a sample of patients how they rate hospital food, as well as whether they were offered a choice of food and whether they got enough help from staff to eat their meals. Trusts may also conduct their own patient questionnaires to assess patient satisfaction with hospital meals.

### Hospitals: Inspections

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital inspections were carried out by the Care Quality Commission and its predecessors in each of the last three years; and how many visits to hospital premises were made by inspectors from the Care Quality Commission and its predecessors in each of the last three years. [304844]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Care Quality Commission has provided the following information.

The information is not available in the format requested.

Since 1 April 2009, there have been 84 inspections of national health service trusts against core standards and 74 inspections of non-NHS acute hospitals. In addition, the Commission has completed 186 health care associated infection inspections of NHS trusts.

The total number of inspections of independent health care providers for the previous three years carried out by the Healthcare Commission were:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 412 |
| 2007-08 | 865 |
| 2008-09 | 402 |

*Note*

This includes all independent health care providers regulated by Healthcare Commission, not all of which are hospitals.

The total number of NHS trusts inspected by the Healthcare Commission against core standards were:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 79 |
| 2008-09 | 84 |

*Note*

This is not the number of individual visits. Some trusts had more than one visit as part of an inspection.

The number of health care-associated inspections of NHS trusts carried out by the Healthcare Commission were:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 129 |
| 2008-09 | 190 |

*Note*

This does not include follow up visits.

These figures do not include service reviews, clinical audits, or any of the investigations undertaken by the Healthcare Commission.

## Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials of his Department in each of the last five years. [305660]

**Phil Hope:** Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively and all expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of managing public money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The amount spent on these expenses is not easily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Cabinet Office publishes an annual list of overseas visits made by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 dating from 1997 onwards. Details on all Health Ministers overseas travel for 2008-09 can be found on the Cabinet Office website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

## Leicestershire Primary Care Trust: Diabetes

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by Leicestershire primary care trust on *(a)* diabetes prevention measures, *(b)* treatment of diabetes and *(c)* treatment of diabetes-related illnesses in each of the last three years. [306342]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested.

Estimated expenditure on diabetes for Leicester City Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT for 2005-06 to 2007-08 is shown in the following table.

*Programme budgeting estimated expenditure on diabetes 2005-06 to 2007-08*

*£000*

| | *Programme budgeting category 04a diabetes* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Expenditure on own population* | *Leicester City Teaching PCT* | *Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT* |
| 2005-06 | 5,672 | 8,499 |
| 2006-07 | 7,209 | 10,371 |
| 2007-08 | 8,156 | 13,618 |

*Notes*

1. The programme budgeting data collection is complex. Therefore, expenditure figures are best estimates rather than precise measurements. Year on year comparisons are not straightforward due to annual refinements to the data collection methodology and changes to underlying data sources.
2. Diabetes is a subcategory of endocrine, nutritional and metabolic problems. Subcategory level data tend to be less robust than main category data as they are smaller categories and are therefore subject to greater variation.
3. Figures include expenditure across all sectors. Disease specific expenditure does not include expenditure on prevention, or GP expenditure, but does include prescribing expenditure.
4. Programme budgeting data for 2004-05 to 2007-08 are published on the Department website. 2008-09 expenditure data have been collected and are undergoing validation prior to publication.

*Source*

Annual PCT programme budgeting financial returns

## Mental Health Services

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the new patient right to maximum waiting times proposed for the NHS Constitution will apply to *(a)* mental health services, *(b)* consultant-led community mental health teams, *(c)* psychological therapies for lower level anxiety and depression and *(d)* psychological therapies for severe mental illnesses. [305912]

**Phil Hope:** Much of mental health activity will be outside the scope of 18 weeks. However, where these services are consultant-led, the 18-week operational standard applies to referrals to mental health services, consultant-led community mental health teams, psychological therapies for lower level anxiety and depression and psychological therapies for severe mental illnesses.

Subject to the outcome of "The NHS Constitution: A consultation on new patient rights", it is intended that the right will be applied in the same way as the 18 week operational standard.

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision for psychotherapy is available under the NHS. [306938]

**Phil Hope:** The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme aims to improve acess to evidence-based psychological therapy for people with depression or anxiety disorders. Launched in autumn 2009 and currently delivered in 109 primary care trusts (PCTs), by 2010-11 every PCT in the country will have begun to establish a service.

Although the IAPT programme had focused initially on cognitive behavioural therapy, the national health service has recently extended a commitment to deliver the full range of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence-approved interventions including interpersonal therapy, couples therapy, brief dynamic therapy, counselling and collaborative care as services develop from 2010-11.

### NHS: Finance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the assessed value of *(a)* NHS-owned land and property in England was in each of the last three years and *(b)* NHS-owned land and property in England is that is currently unoccupied. [305920]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is not collected in the precise format requested. However, the following information is provided.

The value of land and buildings owned by the national health service is published in their annual financial accounts. These data have been collated centrally and give values for 31 March as:

*£ million*

| | *Land* | *Buildings excluding dwellings* | *Dwellings* | *Assets under construction* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 8,638 | 24,616 | 435 | 1,731 |
| 2007-08 | 11,275 | 25,904 | 508 | 1,427 |
| 2006-07 | 10,703 | 24,350 | 507 | 1,391 |

The data are based on that provided electronically to the Department by NHS trusts and primary care trusts and manually collated data from the financial accounts of foundation trusts. The availability and formatting of the foundation trust data means that they will not be complete.

Information is not collected centrally on NHS owned land and property that is currently unoccupied.

### Prescription Drugs

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with patient representative groups about generic drug substitution; [306527]

(2) if he will take steps to prevent pharmacists from automatically substituting prescribed drugs with their generic equivalents until the proposed generic substitution scheme has been introduced. [306529]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** We have received representations from a number of patient representative groups about our proposals to implement generic substitution in England but have not met with any in advance of the formal consultation, due very shortly.

Currently, pharmacists are not able to dispense a generic product where a branded product has been prescribed and this will remain the position until the generic substitution arrangements are introduced.

### Smoking

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have given up smoking through NHS programmes in each of the last three years. [306563]

**Gillian Merron:** Information on the number of people in England who have given up smoking[1] in each year from 2006-07 to 2008-09 is provided in table 3, of the national tables published in "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services: England, April 2009 to June 2009 (Q1—Quarterly report)". The table is replicated as follows.

This publication has already been placed in the Library and the relevant table is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/Health%20
and%20Lifestyles/sss09q1/Stop_Smoking_Services_England
_April_09_June_09_Q1_National_Tables.xls

*Table 3: Number setting a quit date, successful quitters[1], total spend on smoking cessation services and cost per quitter, quarterly and annually from April 2003, England*

| | *Number setting a quit date* | *Number of successful quitters* | *Percentage who successfully quit* | *Total expenditure (£000)[2]* | *Cost per quitter (£)[2]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Quarter 1: April to June* | | | | | |
| 2003 | 68,620 | 36,573 | 53 | 6,360 | 173.90 |
| 2004 | 104,420 | 56,192 | 54 | 10,114 | 180.00 |
| 2005 | 145,538 | 76,495 | 53 | 12,155 | 158.90 |
| 2006 | 137,803 | 68,901 | 50 | 11,813 | 171.45 |
| 2007 | 171,192 | 86,781 | 51 | 13,173 | 151.79 |
| 2008 | 149,395 | 73,361 | 49 | 15,739 | 214.55 |
| 2009 | 163,946 | 79,351 | 48 | 20,450 | 257.72 |
| *Quarter 2: July to September* | | | | | |
| 2003 | 67,075 | 35,968 | 54 | 8,450 | 234.93 |
| 2004 | 103,969 | 56,058 | 54 | 10,458 | 186.56 |
| 2005 | 126,367 | 65,693 | 52 | 11,000 | 167.45 |
| 2006 | 117,003 | 59,967 | 51 | 11,541 | 192.45 |
| 2007 | 179,302 | 89,496 | 50 | 12,886 | 143.98 |
| 2008 | 143,683 | 70,912 | 49 | 17,050 | 240.44 |
| *Quarter 3: October to December* | | | | | |
| 2003 | 76,400 | 43,615 | 57 | 9,111 | 208.90 |

*Table 3: Number setting a quit date, successful quitters[1], total spend on smoking cessation services and cost per quitter, quarterly and annually from April 2003, England*

| | Number setting a quit date | Number of successful quitters | Percentage who successfully quit | Total expenditure (£000)[2] | Cost per quitter (£)[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 109,781 | 62,121 | 57 | 10,587 | 170.42 |
| 2005 | 122,034 | 66,690 | 55 | 12,920 | 193.73 |
| 2006 | 119,986 | 63,659 | 53 | 12,616 | 198.18 |
| 2007 | 136,771 | 71,517 | 52 | 14,793 | 206.85 |
| 2008 | 139,620 | 71,846 | 51 | 18,852 | 262.39 |
| *Quarter 4: January to March* | | | | | |
| 2003 | 149,129 | 88,720 | 59 | 12,280 | 138.42 |
| 2004 | 211,397 | 123,753 | 59 | 15,910 | 128.56 |
| 2005 | 208,881 | 120,803 | 58 | 15,851 | 131.21 |
| 2006 | 225,618 | 127,193 | 56 | 15,264 | 120.00 |
| 2007 | 193,024 | 103,006 | 53 | 19,954 | 193.72 |
| 2008 | 238,561 | 120,935 | 51 | 22,033 | 182.19 |
| *Annual data* | | | | | |
| 2003-04 | 361,224 | 204,876 | 57 | 36,201 | 176.70 |
| 2004-05 | 529,567 | 298,124 | 56 | 47,069 | 157.88 |
| 2005-06 | 602,820 | 329,681 | 55 | 51,927 | 157.51 |
| 2006-07 | 600,410 | 319,720 | 53 | 51,234 | 160.25 |
| 2007-08 | 680,289 | 350,800 | 52 | 60,806 | 173.34 |
| 2008-09 | 671,259 | 337,054 | 50 | 73,675 | 218.59 |

[1] A client counted as having successfully quit smoking at the four-week follow-up if he/she has not smoked at all since two weeks after the quit date.

[2] These figures exclude expenditure on pharmacotherapies (NRT, bupropin and varenicline).

*Source:*

NHS Information Centre, Lifestyle Statistics

## Smoking: Young People

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in reducing the incidence of smoking in the 11 to 15-year-old age group over the last three years. [306562]

**Gillian Merron:** Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the incidence of smoking among young people (defined as regular smokers, occasional smokers and current smokers) is contained within table 2.1 of 'Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England in 2008'. Information is provided by gender and includes the years 2006, 2007 and 2008.

This publication has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/sdd08fullreport/SDD_England_2008_full_report.pdf

## Social Security Benefits: Disabled

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the models his Department has produced on changing *(a)* disability benefits and *(b)* attendance allowance. [307693]

**Phil Hope:** We have not taken any decisions on whether some benefits for older people will be reformed in the new care and support system. If we do decide to integrate some benefits for older people into the new care and support system, we will provide further details in our White Paper next year.

We have been working with the personal social services research unit (PSSRU) to provide the modelling and analysis to underpin our policy development for the Green and White Papers. We were provided with an interim report from PSSRU in November but that was based on a view of the system when the Green Paper was published. Our core modelling assumptions have changed quite significantly since then as a result of our stakeholder engagement, responses to our consultation and developments such as the Prime Minister's announcement on free personal care. The report is therefore only part of the story and we have come to the conclusion that to publish it now could be unhelpful to the wider debate on the future of care and support.

The whole methodology of the interim report was published in July on the PSSRU's website at:

www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2644.pdf

The top level costs and benefits are in the impact assessment published with the Green Paper and available on the big care debate website at:

http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/greenpaper/the-green-paper-and-supporting-documents/

PSSRU continue to model the costs and benefits of a new national care service based on revised assumptions.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the contributions of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 154, whether the term *(a)* equivalent level of support and *(b)* no cash losers are equivalent. [307694]

**Phil Hope:** As we said in the Green Paper, if we do reform disability benefits for older people, anyone receiving an affected benefit at the time of reform would continue to receive an equivalent level of support and protection. We have confirmed that this means they would not experience a cash loss as a result of any such reforms.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what effect his policy of no cash losers has on the proposal for reform set out in the Government's social care Green Paper; [307722]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the policy of no cash losers. [307723]

**Phil Hope:** We think it is important to provide certainty to those people who will be in receipt of disability benefits for older people when we introduce the new National Care Service. If disability benefits for older people were reformed as part of the National Care Service, those receiving the affected benefits at the time of reform would continue to receive the same level of cash support. We will give more details about the National Care Service offer in our White Paper next year, and this will include information on the costs and benefits of a new care and support system.

### Social Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations he has received on paragraphs 5.18 and 5.19 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill. [305754]

**Phil Hope:** To date we have not received any representations on paragraphs 5.18 and 5.19 of the impact assessment of the Personal Care at Home Bill.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 5.28 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, what estimate he has made of the margin at which an individual may run down savings in order to qualify for free personal care; and what estimate he has made of the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* minimum numbers of people expected to apply for free personal care. [305973]

**Phil Hope:** Paragraph 5.28 of the impact assessment discusses the incentive to run down savings in order to qualify for free personal care as one of a range of benefits which may in principle result from the proposals. As reducing the savings disincentive is not a primary policy objective of the proposal, an assessment of its possible scale has not been made.

The expected number of people who will benefit from the Personal Care at Home Bill is shown in Table 2 of the impact assessment. These figures suggest that an estimated 110,000 older people and younger adults will become eligible to receive free personal care, above and beyond those approximately 170,000 people who already receive care for free or the 37,061 people who make a means-tested contribution. For the purposes of the impact assessment, it has been assumed that 100 per cent. of those estimated to become eligible will apply for free personal care, since it is likely that those individuals who do not choose to receive free care organised by their council may choose instead to receive the equivalent sum in the form of a personal health budget.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding streams he has identified for the reform of the social care system. [307724]

**Phil Hope:** In the Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care and Support Together", we said that Government must make sure that the money it is spending on care and support is being used in the most effective way. However, as a society, we will have to spend more money on care and support to meet the needs and expectations of people who will need care and support in the future. The Green Paper sets out different ways that this could be achieved.

In addition, we said that there is a case for drawing some funding streams together to enable us to deliver the new and better care and support system we want to create. We think we should consider integrating some elements of disability benefits for older people, for example attendance allowance, to create a new offer for individuals with care needs.

We have ruled out any incorporation of disability living allowance for under-65s into the new National Care Service.

### Social Services: Public Consultation

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Big Care Debate events have been held since the publication of the Green Paper on shaping the future of care together, in July 2009; in which Parliamentary constituencies these events have been held; and which hon. and right hon. Members have been *(a)* invited to attend these events and *(b)* are recorded as having attended these events. [307204]

**Phil Hope:** During the Green Paper consultation period, the Department organised 80 roadshows for the public, and 37 events for stakeholders. They were held in the following constituencies: Ashford; Basingstoke; Bath; Bedford; Bethnal Green and Bow; Birmingham, Ladywood; Blackpool South; Bognor Regis and Littlehampton; Bournemouth East; Bournemouth West; Brecon and Radnorshire; Brighton, Pavilion; Bristol East; Carlisle; Cities of London and Westminster; City of York; Crawley; Croydon Central; Darlington; Dartford; Derby South; Dudley South; Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush; Exeter; Harborough; Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle; Lancaster and Wyre; Leeds Central; Leicester South; Leicester West; Lincoln; Liverpool, Riverside; Manchester Central; Morley and Rothwell; Newcastle upon Tyne Central; North East Milton Keynes; North Swindon; North West Durham; Northampton South; Norwich North; Norwich South; Nottingham South; Nuneaton; Oxford West and Abingdon; Peterborough; Poplar and Canning Town; Reading East; Rugby and Kenilworth; Sheffield Central; Sheffield, Attercliffe; Southampton, Itchen; Stoke-on-Trent Central; Stretford and Urmston; Taunton; Telford; Tunbridge Wells; Tyne Bridge; Vauxhall; and Wolverhampton South West.

The following hon. and right hon. Members were invited to attend Big Care Debate stakeholder events located in the Government Office Region for which they were responsible as Regional Ministers: the hon. Member for Dudley, North (Mr. Austin); the right hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, East and Wallsend (Mr. Brown); the hon. Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett); the right hon. Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell); the right hon. Member for South Dorset (Jim Knight); the hon. Member for Chatham and Aylesford

(Jonathan Shaw); the right hon. Member for Doncaster, Central (Ms Winterton); and the hon. Member for Oldham, East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas).

We have on record that the Secretary of State for Health, the Minister of State for Care Services and the Regional Minister for Yorkshire and Humber each attended one or more Big Care Debate events.

### Sunbeds: Research

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the use of ultraviolet tanning equipment by minors; and if he will make a statement. [306483]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department has recently commissioned, through Cancer Research UK, two large face-to-face surveys of sunbed use in over 9,000 children aged 11 to 17 in England. The first of these established that 6 per cent. of 11 to 17-year-olds had used a sunbed. A letter detailing some of the findings was published in the British Medical Journal on 13 November 2009. Further information on sunbed use by children and young people can be found at:

www.comare.org.uk/documents/COMARE13thReport.pdf

### Swine Flu: Disease Control

**Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons general practitioners are required to provide monthly returns to his Department on swine influenza injections giving the *(a)* date of birth, *(b)* diagnostic code and *(c)* date of injection of each patient; and to what use this information is required. [306330]

**Gillian Merron:** Monthly data on swine influenza (H1N1) vaccinations are collected from all general practitioners in order that the number of people in the priority and age groups for vaccination that have been vaccinated can be determined and followed through time.

These data are important to collect as they allow the progress of the vaccination programme to be monitored and they inform the management of the programme and planning of any extension to it.

### Swine Flu: Telephone Services

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many telephone calls have been dealt with by the swine influenza hotline in each month since it came into operation. [306936]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department collects data on telephone calls to both the Swine Flu Information Line and the National Pandemic Flu Service (NPFS). The monthly data for each are provided as follows.

*Swine Flu Information Line*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| April 2009 | 14,492 |
| May 2009 | 128,446 |
| June 2009 | 53,755 |
| July 2009 | 578,698 |
| August 2009 | 201,887 |
| September 2009 | 92,689 |
| October 2009 | 152,604 |
| November 2009 | 158,243 |
| Total | 1,380,814 |

*National Pandemic Flu Service*

| | *Contact type* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Telephone* | *Web* | *Total* |
| July 2009 | n/a | n/a | 613,407 |
| August 2009 (1-15) | n/a | n/a | 418,270 |
| August 2009 (16-31) | 80,437 | 73,357 | 153,794 |
| September 2009 | 166,820 | 138,650 | 305,470 |
| October 2009 | 297,896 | 211,044 | 508,940 |
| November 2009 | 238,896 | 171,496 | 410,392 |
| Total | 784,049 | 594,547 | 2,410,273 |

We cannot provide a breakdown of the calls made to the NPFS before 16 August as the system in place, prior to that time, could not do this.

### Tourette Syndrome

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision is made in the training of general practitioners to enable them to recognise and support people with Tourette syndrome; and if he will make a statement. [306532]

**Ann Keen:** The content of curriculum and quality and standard of training for general practitioners is not the responsibility of the Department but the responsibility of the appropriate professional regulatory body.

However, the Department is committed to working with the professional regulatory bodies, royal colleges and others to promote high standards of education and training to ensure that doctors are equipped with the up-to-date knowledge, skills and attitudes essential for professional practice.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies: National Curriculum Tests

**Mr. Keetch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons academies at which pupils do not take standard assessment tests are included in the statistics for these tests; and if he will make a statement. [306512]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* Academies, like maintained schools, have a responsibility to administer National Curriculum tests at Key Stage 2 as part of their Funding Agreement. It is a requirement that the results of all schools are published in the Key Stage 2 tables.

### Academies: Sponsorship

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether a final date for full payment of sponsorship funding is agreed between his Department and the sponsor of each academy school. [306374]

**Mr. Coaker:** There are two types of sponsorship payments for Academies: traditional procurement and the endowment model. For traditional procurement Academies sponsorship payments are a contribution to the capital cost of constructing Academy buildings. Under this model, the timing of the receipt of cash sponsorship varies from academy to academy and is agreed as part of the Funding Agreement between the Department and the academy.

With the endowment model, sponsors establish an endowment fund which generates revenue for the Academy Company to use to counteract the impact of deprivation on the communities they serve. Under this model, receipts to the Academy Trust are made once the academy has opened, and usually over a period of five years. This is also agreed as part of the Funding Agreement between the Department and the academy.

In some instances, under both models, the Department has provided sponsors with some flexibility over the timing of payments made. These are considered on a case by case basis but we would expect sponsors to pay the amounts pledged.

### Antisocial Behaviour

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many respect zones there have been in each year since 2007; how much funding each zone has received in each year; and what funding they can expect to receive in each of the next three years, broken down by funding stream. [303877]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 3 December 2009]*: The Respect Programme was a success and most of the commitments in the Government's Respect Action Plan have been met or are in train and have been taken into the heart of programmes across Government and in local service delivery.

The 47 local authorities entitled 'Respect' areas no longer hold this title but continue to receive funding to tackle antisocial behaviour, provide parenting programmes and deliver Family Intervention Projects, the previous requisite elements of being a Respect area.

The funding provided to these areas to continue delivery of these elements of the Respect programme for each of the years from 2007 to 2011 is outlined as follows:

£

| | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anti-social behaviour grant (area based grant) | 3,329,719 | 3,429,719 | 3,429,719 | 3,429,719 |
| Family intervention project (ASB) | 8,129,474 | 5,414,998 | 3,798,051 | 3,798,051 |
| Parenting practitioners | 2,300,000 | 2,350,000 | 2,300,000 | 2,300,000 |

### Building Schools for the Future Programme

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of Building Schools for the Future funding has been spent on laboratories for practical science in each of the last four years; and whether he has plans to prioritise school science in the next Building Schools for the Future funding round. [306265]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect information about the funding of particular types of space.

However, we know that over the last four years 81 new secondary schools have been built with the benefit of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) funding, at an average cost of £25 million. As each of these schools will have facilities for teaching practical science totalling on average 8 to 10 per cent. of the gross floor area, the cost of providing science accommodation at all these schools can be estimated at around £162 million to £203 million. In the same period, 27 schools have been refurbished and/or extended with BSF funding and many of these projects are likely to include improvements to science accommodation.

The aim of BSF, the largest capital investment programme for 50 years, is to provide world-class teaching and learning environments across the whole curriculum, including science. The Department does not intend, therefore, to prioritise school science in future BSF rounds.

The Department is committed to excellent science accommodation, demonstrated by Project Faraday which has developed exemplar designs for school laboratories to meet the needs of 21st century practical science teaching. These exemplar projects, many of which are already built, will inform and inspire all those involved in BSF.

For more information on Project Faraday see:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolbuildings/

### CAFCASS: Complaints

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what procedures the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service has in place for handling complaints received regarding the accuracy of its reports; and if he will make a statement. [305829]

**Dawn Primarolo:** CAFCASS has a formal complaints procedure, which includes complaints about the accuracy of reports. A copy of this procedure has been placed in the House Libraries. CAFCASS Cymru operate a parallel service in Wales on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government and a copy of their representation and complaints procedure can be obtained from CAFCASS Cymru.

### Children: Video Games

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the (i) level of access by people under the age of 18 years to video games featuring scenes of violence with an 18-rated classification and (ii) potential effects on the behaviour and development of such people of that access. [303010]

**Dawn Primarolo:** As part of her review of the effects of the internet and computer games on young people, Dr Tanya Byron commissioned extensive research into how video games impact children. This research looked at the issues such as addiction, violence and inappropriate content in games. The research concluded that there is no clear evidence either way about harmful impact on young people in terms of it creating violent behaviour.

The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) is taking forward the review's recommendations, with special emphasis on the impact that online games have on children. The Byron review also recognised that more research into games is needed, especially given the pace of change in the medium. The Council has established an Experts' Research Panel to look at ways to deepen our understanding of the issues.

Classification formed an important part of the review and Professor Byron recommended a review of the classification of games and following the review this year we are strengthening the games classification system to extend statutory protection to all material suitable for those aged 12 or over. The recommendations also included working with Trading Standards officers on assessing underage sales of video games. Investigating the issue was accepted as a priority by the Executive Board of UKCCIS and the Council has commissioned work with local partners to investigate the issue.

### Children's Centres

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of Sure Start children's centres in reducing child poverty; [306606]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Sure Start children's centres for low income families. [306625]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Sure Start children's centres both improve children's life chances and help parents into training and employment. All children's centres have links with Job Centre Plus, and in 10 local authorities Job Centre Plus advisers are placed full time in children's centres, helping parents on their journey into work. Children's centres are improving children's life chances: evidence shows that three-year-olds in areas with Sure Start Local Programmes displayed above-average levels of social development and positive social behaviour.

For more information on the evidence of the benefits of Children's Centres to low income families I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 354W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Wirral, South (Ben Chapman).

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent representations he has received on increasing the number of Sure Start children's centres; [306608]

(2) how many people use Sure Start children's centres in Leeds, West constituency. [306607]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Local authorities are responsible for rolling out Sure Start Children's Centre programmes in their areas. We are on track to achieve the national target for at least 3,500 centres by March 2010, offering access to services for all children under five and their families.

The Department does not collect information centrally about the numbers of children and families accessing individual Sure Start Children's Centres. We expect local authorities and children's centres to collect data on the take up of services as part of their local performance management arrangements. The Leeds, West constituency currently has seven Sure Start Children's Centres offering services to approximately 5,500 children under five and their families. There are no further centres planned for this constituency.

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 201W, on children: social services, what the monetary value is of the contract met centrally by his Department for the Together for Children consortium to provide support for the delivery of Sure Start children's centres since October 2006. [306634]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Together for Children, a consortium of Serco, Tempus Resourcing Ltd., 4Children and Continyou, was contracted as the Department's delivery partner for Sure Start children's centres in October 2006 to provide support to local authorities to plan and deliver their children's centre programmes. The following table gives details of the monetary value of the contract for each year since its commencement which is met centrally by the Department.

| *Financial year* | *Total cost (excluding VAT) (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2006/07 | 3.4 |
| 2007/08 | 6.5 |
| 2008/09 | 7.2 |
| 2009/10[1] | 7.5 |
| 2010/11[1] | 3.7 |

[1] Estimated costs on current workplans.

### Children's Centres: Barnsley

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have children at Sure Start children's centres in Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency. [307163]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There are 19 designated Sure Start Children's Centres in Barnsley local authority, reaching just over 12,800 children under five and their families. Of these, two are in the Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency, reaching around 1200 children under five and their families.

Reach defines those children and families with the opportunity to access Sure Start Children's Centres. Figures for the number of people actually using children's centres are not collected centrally.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306074]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Records show that the Department procured 17 plasma screens since 2001. The cost of purchasing and installing these screens (excluding VAT) in each such year was £28,281.75 in 2001; £11,764.01 in 2003; £19,134 in 2006 and £15,480 in 2007.

These were mainly purchased to provide a videoconferencing service to the Department's four sites and to stream internal content within the Department.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305497]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Statistics published by the Ministry of Justice on Freedom of Information in central Government for 2008 show that of a total of 554 non-routine requests received by the Department (based on aggregated quarterly data) 88 per cent. (485) received a substantive response within 20 days. 92 per cent. (511) of requests were dealt with 'in time', that is within 20 days by meeting the deadline or other permitted extension deadline.

The statistics can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.Justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

and copies are available in the House Libraries.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff of his Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306706]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The figures for staff in the Department that were without permanent posts on the dates specified are *(a)* 11 in January 09, *(b)* 9 in April 09, *(c)* 12 in July 09 and *(d)* 22 in October 09.

All individuals without permanent posts are actively engaged in work during this transition period, on either key projects or short-term business priorities. These individuals are known as priority movers and they are given individual tailored support to find suitable permanent posts.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on employing agency workers in each of the last five years. [307596]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The DCSF [illegible] created on 28 June 2007. Spend on agency staff [illegible] is set out in the following table:

| | *Agency (£)* |
|---|---|
| July 2007 to December 2007 | 333,000 |
| January 2008 to December 2008 | 1,219,000 |
| January 2009 to October 2009 | 1,263,000 |

Spend on agency staff is historically higher during the first half of the year due to, in part, to the need to recruit agency staff to work on the school census. This explains the lower than expected number for the six months of 2007.

### Departmental Written Questions

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305378]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The information requested is in the following table.

*1 December 2008 to 15 December 2009 inclusive*

| | *Tabled* | *Replied to on named day* |
|---|---|---|
| December 2008 | 42 | 20 |
| January 2009 | 77 | 42 |
| February 2009 | 75 | 34 |
| March 2009 | 83 | 51 |
| April 2009 | 65 | 46 |
| May 2009 | 71 | 51 |
| June 2009 | 49 | 34 |
| July 2009 | 15 | 12 |
| August 2009 | n/a | n/a |
| September 2009 | 38 | 31 |
| October 2009 | 69 | 46 |
| November 2009 | 82 | 46 |
| December 2009 | 47 | 34 |

Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the 'Guide to Parliamentary Work', at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee Report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

### Ecosystem Project

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the cost of Becta's learning resources ecosystem project. [305711]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Becta has allocated £150,000 for this initiative, which is designed to make it easier for learners, teachers and parents to access many millions of pounds worth of existing learning content. This will result in efficiency savings by reducing teacher workload, while improving the quality of the learning experience and value for money for schools.

### Extracurricular Activities

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what plans his Department has to support the development of after-school clubs; [306610]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the average number of after-school activity clubs in schools in Leeds, West constituency; [306613]

(3) what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of after-school clubs in reducing levels of youth crime; [306612]

(4) what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of after-school clubs in improving academic achievement. [306611]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not collect data on the number of after school clubs. However, over £1 billion in funding is being made available to ensure all schools are offering access to the core offer of extended services by 2010. This includes access to a rich and varied menu of before and after school activities from 8 am to 6 pm and during school holidays where there is demand. In England, over 19,800 (92 per cent. of) schools are already providing access to the core offer of extended services; the Government expect all maintained schools to be doing so by 2010.

In the constituency of Leeds, West, 30 schools (93 per cent.) are offering the full range of extended services.

The evidence to date points to the positive effect extended services are having on pupil motivation, behaviour, attendance and disposition to learning. Before and after school clubs not only offer extended learning opportunities but also provide children and young people with the opportunity to participate in diversionary activities which are fun and delivered in an environment which is safe.

The Department will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the policy as it beds in and more data become available. Previous evaluation from the Full Service Extended Schools research (Cummings C, Dyson A, Muijs D, Papps I, Pearson D, Raffo C, Tiplady L and Todd L 2007 "Evaluation of the Full Service Extended Schools Initiative"), as well as reports by Ofsted (Ofsted, 2006 "Extended services in schools and children's centres", Ofsted, 2008, "How well are they doing? The impact of Children's Centres and Extended Schools") provided some qualitative evidence of a positive impact on pupil attainment. These were based on case study evidence of views, perceptions and observations of practitioners and teachers in the context of individual school case studies.

## Free School Meals

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has to extend the provision of free school meals. [306614]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** As part of the pre-Budget report, the Chancellor has announced a phased roll out of free school meals to primary children from low income families, who are in receipt of work-related benefits, starting with 50 per cent. of eligible children in September 2010, and with full roll out in 2011. He also announced an extension to the universal free school meal pilots for primary children so that there is a pilot in each English region.

## Free School Meals: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils receive free schools meals in Leeds, West constituency. [306615]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The requested information is shown in the table, together with the numbers of children eligible for free school meals.

*Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[2, 3] schools: School meal arrangements as at January 2009 in Leeds, West parliamentary constituency*

| | Number on roll[3] | Number of pupils taking free school meals[4] | Percentage taking free school meals | Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3] | Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Primary[1] | 6,760 | 1,400 | 20.7 | 1,740 | 25.7 |
| Secondary[2] | 3,690 | 710 | 19.3 | 950 | 25.7 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes City Technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[4] Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the day of the census. Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons e.g. through preference or through non-attendance on the day.
*Note:*
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census

## Freud Communications: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the monetary value is of the communications contract his Department has awarded to Freud Communications; which Minister approved the contract; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305156]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The contract with Freud Communications to deliver the Year of Music, approved by the Secretary of State, is £1 million across the two financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11. This covers all costs associated with the project with Freud acting as the sole agency working with DCSF to delivery this initiative.

DCSF is aiming to reflect COI's new (to be standard) measures for assessing the impact of PR activity and so the contract is currently still in draft. A copy of the invitation to tender document against which the contract was drawn up has been placed in the House Libraries.

## Homosexuality

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools on educating pupils on tolerance of homosexuality. [305699]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department has sent out a strong message that bullying is not acceptable in our schools, making it clear that all forms of bullying, including those motivated by prejudice, must not be tolerated and should always incur disciplinary sanctions. Homophobic bullying can negatively affect a young person's attainment and future life chances. In order to ensure that schools have the most practical and accessible tools at their disposal to prevent and tackle homophobic bullying, the Department published guidance, which gives schools the knowledge and expertise to tackle homophobic bullying.

The Department's "Sex and Relationship Education Guidance" (2004) issued to all schools makes it clear that schools should teach about all types of relationships that exist within society, including homosexual relationships. Both primary and secondary schools should address the underlying attitudes and values that underpin homophobic bullying as part of a well planned and age-appropriate programme of sex and relationships education (SRE).

We are issuing revised SRE guidance to schools next year and it is our intention that the revised guidance will reinforce this message.

## MyCurriculum

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the cost of the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency's MyCurriculum initiative. [305712]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There is no cost to the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency from the Mycurriculum.com initiative, which has been entirely funded from the revenue of the self-funding commercial arm of QCDA—the registered company QCA (Enterprises) Ltd. This is a pilot of an initiative intended to bring significant benefits to teachers in creating, developing and collaborating on learning resources and activities, allowing teachers to share best practice.

## National Safeguarding Delivery Unit

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how often the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit has met since it became active on 1 July 2009; what work the Unit has undertaken since it became active; how many times the Unit has reported to *(a)* the Cabinet sub-committee on families, children and young people and *(b)* the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee; and on what dates those reports were made; [307261]

(2) who is employed on the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit; and at what pay scales; [307262]

(3) pursuant to his answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 594-95W, on the national safeguarding delivery unit, for what reasons the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit's work programme has not yet been published; and when he expects it to be published. [307263]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The new cross-Government National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU) became operational on 1 July 2009. The NSDU is an operational unit of 27 staff, co-located in the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), drawn from the DCSF, the Ministry of Justice, Department of Health, and Home Office, as well as secondees from local authorities.

The unit was established to drive forward the implementation of the Government's response to Lord Laming, giving strong, co-ordinated national leadership across the safeguarding system and to provide support and challenge to local authorities and their partners in driving up the quality of front-line practice. The unit will continue to work with a wide range of partners, including front-line practitioners and their managers, to develop further and take forward the priorities, all of which are designed to help improve safeguarding practice and outcomes for children and young people.

The grades and associated pay scales of NSDU staff are set out in the following table.

| *Grade* | *Number of people in the NSDU at this scale* | *DCSF pay scales*[1] *(£)* |
|---|---|---|
| SCS pay band 1A | 1 | 67,600-128,900 |
| SCS pay band 1 | 2 | 57,300-80,000 |
| Grade 6 | 6 | 57,000-67,650 |
| Grade 7 | 7 | 47,625-56,100 |
| Senior executive officer | 4 | 35,629-40,062 |
| Higher executive officer | 3 | 29,571-32,666 |
| Executive officer | 4 | 24,298-26,713 |

[1] Pay scales vary between Government Departments as a result of devolved pay bargaining arrangements.

The work of the unit is overseen by a programme board of senior officials. The unit has submitted two progress reports to the DA(FCY) ministerial sub-group in July and December.

The unit works closely with, and supports, the chief adviser on the Safety of Children who is due to submit the first of his annual reports to Parliament by April 2010.

The NSDU's work programme will be published shortly and will include a summary of progress on the unit's work to date. It was decided to postpone the publication of this work programme in order to allow the new head of unit, who took up post on 7 December, to be consulted. The delay has not prevented the unit's work from being taken forward: significant progress has been made, as will be set out in the work programme that will be published.

## Pupil Exclusions

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support is provided by local authorities for children who have been excluded from school as a result of their Tourette syndrome; and if he will make a statement. [306531]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** School governing bodies have a statutory duty to do their best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs. The Department's statutory guidance on exclusions states that schools should try every practicable means to maintain the pupil in school, including seeking local authority (LA) and other professional advice and support at "School Action Plus" or, where appropriate, asking the LA to consider carrying out a statutory assessment.

During the first five days of a permanent exclusion, the LA should arrange to assess the pupil's needs and how to meet them. From the sixth day of a permanent exclusion, the LA is statutorily responsible for ensuring that suitable full-time education is provided to pupils of compulsory school age. Tourettes is often treated with a combination of drugs and behavioural therapy, and any educational intervention needs to follow appropriate local professional advice.

## Pupils: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of pupils in the London borough of Bexley who attended secondary schools in *(a)* Dartford borough, *(b)* the London borough of Bromley and *(c)* the London borough of Greenwich in the last three years. [illegible]

**Mr. Coaker:** The requested data are set out in the following table.

*Number of pupils[1] resident in the London borough of Bexley and attending secondary[2] schools in Dartford borough, Bromley and Greenwich*

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dartford borough | 546 | 520 | 577 |
| London borough of Bromley | 612 | 590 | [illegible] |
| London borough of Greenwich | 662 | 717 | 711 |

[1] For 2007[1] pupils age five to 15. For 2008 and 2009 pupils in national curriculum year groups R to 11.

[2] Secondary school includes maintained secondary schools, academies and CTCs.

Source:

School Census

## School Meals: Finance

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what payments the School Food Trust has made to Tetra Strategy in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305155]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The School Food Trust has paid Tetra Strategy £5,750 for the provision of desk research services during the financial year 2009/10. The terms of reference will be placed in the House Libraries.

## Schools: Energy

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advice and assistance his Department provides to schools to enable them to reduce their energy use. [306027]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** DCSF supports schools in reducing their energy in a number of ways. Under advice from the Department's Zero Carbon Task Force, DCSF has recently contracted with British Gas to provide display energy meters to all schools that wish to have one installed. The meters will enable schools to easily monitor their energy usage, and research shows that meters are an effective way of helping users of buildings to manage their energy demands.

The display meter offer builds on the Department's Sustainable Schools framework that has been promoted over a number of years by DCSF and through the Government Office network. The framework encourages action on energy reduction and provides guidance including top tips on how this can be achieved.

The Department also promotes to schools the use of energy contracts that are consistent with criteria considered value for money by the Office of Government Commerce.

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* grants and *(b)* other assistance have been provided to schools in Leeds, West to help them reduce their energy bills; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

**Mr. Coaker:** In December 2007 the Department set a requirement to reduce carbon emissions from new school buildings by 60 per cent. relative to the energy efficiency standards set out in the 2002 Building Regulations.

Additional funding (£50/m$^2$) was allocated to approximately 200 secondary schools to help meet this target. The Department has requested that completed carbon calculations are submitted for each of these projects so that proposed measures can be monitored and their effectiveness in meeting the target reduction can be evaluated in future. Currently West Leeds Academy is the only school to have completed the carbon calculation in Leeds, West. The school is therefore eligible to receive the additional funding. The planned opening date for West Leeds Academy is September 2011.

The Energy Savings Trust funding database[1] contains details of a wide range of funds relevant to local authorities, housing associations and community groups. This searchable database contains details of around 100 funds for energy efficiency improvements, the installation of renewable energy and other initiatives to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide.

The Low Carbon Buildings Programme[2] (LCBP) also gives grants for match funding of microgeneration technologies for schools. Phase 2 of this scheme continues on from the phase 1 scheme that provided funding to schools from March 2007. Two schools in Leeds, Garforth Community College and Kippax North Junior and Infants School have benefited from LCBP funding.

[1] http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Resources/Search-for-available-funding

[2] http://www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk/index.jsp

## Schools: Lancashire

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in East Lancashire 80 per cent. or more pupils are from visible ethnic minorities. [illegible]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information on ethnicity of pupils is not available in the form requested.

The latest available information on ethnicity of pupils is published at national and local authority level at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000843/index.shtml

## Schools: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff were employed in Leeds local education authority schools in each year since 1997; [illegible]

(2) how many teaching assistants there are in *(a)* Leeds, West constituency and *(b)* West Yorkshire. [306609]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested for Leeds local authority for January 1997, 2001 to 2009 is published in tables 19, 25 and 26 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including local authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)" published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables19to27_Vals.xls

The information requested for Leeds local authority for January 1998 to 2000 is published in tables 19, 25 and 26 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including local authority level figures) January 2008 (Revised)" published on 25 September 2008. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/SFR262008_Tables_LA20081021-2.xls

In January 2009 there were 320 full-time equivalent teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools in Leeds, West constituency and 9,000 in West Yorkshire.

### Schools: Rural Areas

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many rural *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools were opened in each year since 1997. [305060]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The following table provides details of the 22 additional new maintained mainstream schools that have been established since 2000 and designated as 'rural' at the time of their establishment. We do not have reliable information about decisions made prior to 2000.

| *Types* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Phase/ Additional new rural school* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Primary | 1 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 21 |
| Secondary | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Sub-total | 1 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 22 |

Local authorities are responsible for school place provision. Where a new school is proposed a statutory process must be followed which is then decided locally under established decision making arrangements. Ministers have no direct role in the process.

### Schools: Yorkshire and the Humber

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what plans he has to rebuild and refurbish *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Leeds, West constituency, (ii) Leeds City and (iii) West Yorkshire; [306017]

(2) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Leeds, West constituency and (ii) West Yorkshire have been rebuilt or refurbished since 1997. [306018]

**Mr. Coaker:** In July the Department carried out a survey of all local authorities to gather data on how capital investment in schools has been spent and plans through to 2011. These data are now being validated and reconciled with a similar survey that was carried out in 2007. I will write to my hon. Friend by the end of February 2010 to provide the information requested.

### Special Educational Needs

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with statements of special educational need in each local authority area have been educated in schools outside their local authority area of residence in each year since 1997. [303586]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson** *[holding answer 2 December 2009]*: The requested information is shown in the following table for the years 2003, 2007, 2008 and 2009. Information for years prior to 2003 is not available on a comparable basis, and information for the remaining years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*Pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) resident in each local authority area[1] in maintained schools[2] and non-maintained special schools*

| | | *Number of pupils with a statement of SEN educated outside their resident local authority* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Resident local authority* | *2003* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| A | *North East* | | | | |
| 841 | Darlington | 25 | 22 | 19 | 20 |
| 840 | Durham | 170 | 134 | 118 | 120 |
| 390 | Gateshead | 104 | 85 | 64 | 52 |
| 805 | Hartlepool | 43 | 42 | 31 | 24 |
| 806 | Middlesbrough | 57 | 37 | 34 | 30 |
| 391 | Newcastle upon Tyne | 83 | 101 | 84 | 85 |
| 392 | North Tyneside | 46 | 32 | 33 | 28 |
| 929 | Northumberland | 92 | 99 | 89 | 103 |
| 807 | Redcar and Cleveland | 98 | 94 | 86 | 81 |
| 393 | South Tyneside | 33 | 21 | 21 | 30 |
| 808 | Stockton-on-Tees | 67 | 54 | 52 | 48 |
| 394 | Sunderland | 66 | 60 | 40 | 47 |
| B | *North West* | | | | |
| 889 | Blackburn with Darwen | 69 | 76 | 68 | 67 |
| 890 | Blackpool | 66 | 39 | 37 | 33 |
| 350 | Bolton | 69 | 51 | 41 | 37 |
| 351 | Bury | 84 | 90 | 95 | 89 |
| 875 | Cheshire | 85 | 79 | 84 | 88 |
| 895 | Cheshire East[3] | n/a | n/a | n/a | 308 |
| 896 | Cheshire West and Cheshire[3] | n/a | n/a | n/a | 94 |
| 909 | Cumbria | 15 | 20 | 25 | 20 |
| 876 | Halton | 97 | 81 | 65 | 43 |
| 340 | Knowsley | 97 | 90 | 85 | 96 |
| 888 | Lancashire | 318 | 278 | 281 | 282 |

*Pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) resident in each local authority area[1] in maintained schools[2] and non-maintained special schools*

| | | *Number of pupils with a statement of SEN educated outside their resident local authority* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Resident local authority* | *2003* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| 341 | Liverpool | 98 | 68 | 59 | 49 |
| 352 | Manchester | 194 | 222 | 215 | 207 |
| 353 | Oldham | 34 | 25 | 16 | 19 |
| 354 | Rochdale | 64 | 69 | 69 | 64 |
| 355 | Salford | 84 | 72 | 74 | 84 |
| 343 | Sefton | 73 | 67 | 62 | 62 |
| 342 | St. Helens | 64 | 47 | 41 | 40 |
| 356 | Stockport | 83 | 81 | 85 | 49 |
| 357 | Tameside | 68 | 56 | 51 | 57 |
| 358 | Trafford | 105 | 103 | 103 | 106 |
| 877 | Warrington | 80 | 72 | 69 | 65 |
| 359 | Wigan | 84 | 69 | 68 | 69 |
| 344 | Wirral | 64 | 47 | 37 | 34 |
| D | *Yorkshire and the Humber* | | | | |
| 370 | Barnsley | 58 | 61 | 63 | 67 |
| 380 | Bradford | 100 | 106 | 126 | 120 |
| 381 | Calderdale | 27 | 41 | 37 | 37 |
| 371 | Doncaster | 35 | 48 | 45 | 44 |
| 811 | East Riding of Yorkshire | 143 | 209 | 201 | 210 |
| 810 | Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 147 | 65 | 76 | 70 |
| 382 | Kirklees | 67 | 57 | 62 | 59 |
| 383 | Leeds | 74 | 60 | 52 | 53 |
| 812 | North East Lincolnshire | 47 | 45 | 42 | 43 |
| 813 | North Lincolnshire | 70 | 43 | 37 | 35 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 133 | 125 | 122 | 114 |
| 372 | Rotherham | 35 | 44 | 35 | 29 |
| 373 | Sheffield | 52 | 54 | 53 | 46 |
| 384 | Wakefield | 53 | 30 | 33 | 28 |
| 816 | York | 15 | 18 | 19 | 22 |
| E | *East Midlands* | | | | |
| 831 | Derby | 50 | 48 | 51 | 51 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | 208 | 272 | 245 | 223 |
| 856 | Leicester | 208 | 207 | 181 | 173 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 314 | 238 | 205 | 192 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 100 | 123 | 118 | 110 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 96 | 86 | 85 | 68 |
| 892 | Nottingham | 83 | 67 | 71 | 70 |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire | 145 | 152 | 150 | 145 |
| 857 | Rutland | 15 | 20 | 21 | 23 |
| F | *West Midlands* | | | | |
| 330 | Birmingham | 162 | 220 | 235 | 262 |
| 331 | Coventry | 35 | 34 | 43 | 38 |
| 332 | Dudley | 68 | 89 | 87 | 85 |
| 884 | Herefordshire | 26 | 24 | 20 | 13 |
| 333 | Sandwell | 129 | 135 | 133 | 121 |
| 893 | Shropshire | 154 | 97 | 94 | 90 |
| 334 | Solihull | 53 | 85 | 88 | 91 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 238 | 207 | 193 | 178 |
| 861 | Stoke-on-Trent | 243 | 209 | 223 | 229 |
| 894 | Telford and Wrekin | 34 | 22 | 21 | 28 |
| 335 | Walsall | 75 | 83 | 91 | 94 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 123 | 120 | 121 | 128 |
| 336 | Wolverhampton | 73 | 65 | 66 | 67 |
| 885 | Worcestershire | 60 | 95 | 90 | 90 |
| G | *East of England* | | | | |
| 822 | Bedford[3] | n/a | n/a | n/a | 74 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 82 | 71 | 77 | 68 |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire | 125 | 112 | 110 | 96 |
| 823 | Central Bedfordshire[3] | n/a | n/a | n/a | 172 |
| 881 | Essex | 457 | 283 | 282 | 264 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 160 | 183 | 181 | 178 |
| 821 | Luton | 147 | 70 | 65 | 53 |
| 926 | Norfolk | 92 | 77 | 67 | 63 |
| 874 | Peterborough | 21 | 41 | 39 | 31 |
| 882 | Southend-on-Sea | 58 | 75 | 80 | 79 |
| 935 | Suffolk | 82 | 72 | 69 | 72 |
| 883 | Thurrock | 86 | 98 | 106 | 102 |
| H | *London* | | | | |
| A | *Inner London* | | | | |
| 202 | Camden | 176 | 162 | 154 | 170 |
| 201 | City of London | 8 | 12 | 12 | 11 |
| 204 | Hackney | 239 | 215 | 198 | 187 |
| 205 | Hammersmith and Fulham | 152 | 138 | 126 | 108 |
| 309 | Haringey | 156 | 145 | 139 | 130 |
| 206 | Islington | 187 | 177 | 173 | 173 |
| 207 | Kensington and Chelsea | 156 | 160 | 162 | 172 |
| 208 | Lambeth | 358 | 282 | 263 | 237 |
| 209 | Lewisham | 320 | 262 | 243 | 248 |
| 316 | Newham | 122 | 83 | 81 | 86 |
| 210 | Southwark | 222 | 198 | 196 | 209 |
| 211 | Tower Hamlets | 124 | 102 | 92 | 80 |
| 212 | Wandsworth | 118 | 127 | 129 | 128 |
| 213 | Westminster | 183 | 193 | 180 | 190 |
| B | *Outer London* | | | | |
| 301 | Barking and Dagenham | 147 | 140 | 149 | 143 |
| 302 | Barnet | 226 | 205 | 203 | 200 |
| 303 | Bexley | 190 | 196 | 183 | 184 |
| 304 | Brent | 268 | 244 | 238 | 235 |
| 305 | Bromley | 189 | 185 | 177 | 187 |
| 306 | Croydon | 310 | 364 | 386 | 395 |
| 307 | Ealing | 203 | 168 | 149 | 139 |
| 308 | Enfield | 227 | 165 | 171 | 158 |
| 203 | Greenwich | 175 | 141 | 138 | 136 |
| 310 | Harrow | 133 | 133 | 144 | 150 |
| 311 | Havering | 90 | 89 | 92 | 95 |
| 312 | Hillingdon | 164 | 112 | 120 | 112 |
| 313 | Hounslow | 189 | 219 | 204 | 210 |
| 314 | Kingston upon Thames | 79 | 93 | 88 | 86 |
| 315 | Merton | 192 | 220 | 207 | 200 |
| 317 | Redbridge | 138 | 149 | 154 | 171 |
| 318 | Richmond upon Thames | 96 | 120 | 118 | 115 |
| 319 | Sutton | 157 | 185 | 172 | 175 |
| 320 | Waltham Forest | 106 | 112 | 122 | 114 |

*Pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) resident in each local authority area[1] in maintained schools[2] and non-maintained special schools*

| | *Resident local authority* | *Number of pupils with a statement of SEN educated outside their resident local authority* 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | *South East* | | | | |
| 867 | Bracknell Forest | 157 | 133 | 147 | 161 |
| 846 | Brighton and Hove | 60 | 41 | 42 | 42 |
| 825 | Buckingham[illegible] | 171 | 190 | 197 | 183 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 147 | 140 | 136 | 128 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 371 | 350 | 333 | 342 |
| 921 | Isle of Wight | 11 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| 886 | Kent | 208 | 176 | 164 | 157 |
| 887 | Medway | 125 | 121 | 126 | 111 |
| 826 | Milton Keynes | 64 | 51 | 53 | 48 |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 58 | 4P | 50 | 41 |
| 851 | Portsmouth | 61 | 64 | 58 | 57 |
| 870 | Reading | 342 | 309 | 314 | 296 |
| 871 | Slough | 123 | 100 | 86 | 69 |
| 852 | Southampton | 42 | 52 | 43 | 50 |
| 936 | Surrey | 223 | 285 | 296 | 313 |
| 869 | West Berkshire | 77 | 80 | 76 | 77 |
| 938 | West Sussex | 180 | 176 | 165 | 153 |
| 868 | Windsor and Maidenhead | 129 | 105 | 97 | 111 |
| 872 | Wokingham | 109 | 105 | 103 | 98 |
| K | *South West* | | | | |
| 800 | Bath and North East Somerset | 30 | 29 | 34 | 22 |
| 837 | Bournemouth | 129 | 80 | 79 | 91 |
| 801 | Bristol, City of | 161 | 126 | 135 | 124 |
| 908 | Cornwall | 59 | 63 | 65 | 59 |
| 878 | Devon | 209 | 154 | 132 | 113 |
| 835 | Dorset | 213 | 193 | 188 | 175 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | 29 | 39 | 33 | 26 |
| 420 | Isles of Scilly | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 802 | North Somerset | 37 | 29 | 33 | 37 |
| 879 | Plymouth | 27 | 26 | 21 | 28 |
| 836 | Poole | 78 | 52 | 45 | 42 |
| 933 | Somerset | 78 | 81 | 78 | 73 |
| 803 | South Gloucestershire | 96 | 109 | 117 | 113 |
| 866 | Swindon | 40 | 38 | 37 | 38 |
| 880 | Torbay | 77 | 61 | 64 | 58 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 171 | 186 | 180 | 172 |

n/a = not applicable

[1] Includes pupils with valid postcodes only.

[2] Includes maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, CTCs, academies and maintained special schools.

[3] Post April 2009 local government reorganisation. Figures for the new local authorities created in April 2009 are not included for years prior to 2009. The focus of this PQ is on the provision for Special Educational Needs students in place at the time the figures were collected and it is not relevant to include historical figures for the new LAs in this context.

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties there are in *(a)* Leeds, West constituency, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* England. [306624]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The requested information is shown in the table.

*Maintained primary[1], State-funded secondary[1, 2] and special schools[3]: Number of pupils[4] with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties[5]—January 2009 in Leeds West parliamentary constituency, West Yorkshire and England*

| | *Maintained primary* | *State-funded secondary* | *All special* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Leeds West | 90 | 60 | 40 |
| West Yorkshire | 2,460 | 3,840 | 430 |
| England | 59,930 | 82,270 | 13,240 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes City Technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Headcount of solely registered pupils only.

[5] Pupils at School Action Plus and those pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs provided information on their primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need. Information on primary need only is given here.

*Note:*

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

School Census

## Specialised Diplomas: Rural Areas

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of rural secondary schools *(a)* are offering new diploma courses, *(b)* will offer new diploma courses starting in September 2010 and *(c)* have joined consortia to offer new diploma courses in each of the next four years; and if he will make a statement. [303731]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We do not collect information about 14-19 delivery at an institutional level. However, from the Department's School and College Database, over 95 per cent. of rural schools are involved in consortia approved to deliver Diplomas from 2010.

Consortia have applied to the fourth Gateway to offer Diplomas from September 2011 and we will publish the results of this process in April 2010.

## Teachers: Arts

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many (1) places were available in each region for people to train as dance teachers in each of the last 10 years; [305774]

(2) training places were available in each region for *(a)* music, *(b)* drama and *(c)* art teachers in each of the last 10 years. [306032]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department sets national targets for initial teacher training (ITT) recruitment. Table 1 shows the number of ITT places in each of the last 10 years. This information is not available at regional level.

Table 2 shows the number of places allocated to ITT providers (based on the region of the provider) for courses specialising in the requested subjects is shown in the table. This information is only available from 2003/04 onwards. The sum of the allocation targets may not be the same as sector level departmental targets.

*Table 1: Initial teacher training, number of places[1, 2], 2000/01 to 2009/10, England*

| | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Primary* | 13,100 | 12,500 | 14,000 | 15,200 | 16,300 | 15,800 | 15,300 | 14,800 | 17,460 | 18,050 |
| *Secondary* | 16,615 | 17,390 | 17,790 | 19,475 | 19,500 | 18,500 | 17,500 | 16,500 | 19,385 | 18,120 |

*Table 1: Initial teacher training number of places[1], 2000/01 to 2009/10, England*

| | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Secondary by subject | | | | | | | | | | |
| Art | 650 | 650 | 650 | 600 | 600 | 500 | 700 | 600 | 670 | 595 |
| Citizenship | | | 200 | 250 | 250 | 240 | 230 | 220 | 265 | 265 |
| English (inc. Drama) | 2,160 | 2,160 | 2,350 | 2,350 | 2,350 | 2,200 | 2,040 | 1,920 | 2,670 | 2,535 |
| Geography | 1,080 | 1,175 | 1,100 | 985 | 935 | 925 | 850 | 770 | 770 | 715 |
| History | 900 | 900 | 950 | 950 | 910 | 810 | 760 | 690 | 685 | 620 |
| Mathematics | 1,650 | 1,940 | 1,940 | 2,315 | 2,350 | 2,350 | 2,350 | 2,350 | 2,735 | 2,685 |
| Modern foreign languages | 2,050 | 2,050 | 2,050 | 2,050 | 2,050 | 1,900 | 1,760 | 1,670 | 1,670 | 1,525 |
| Music | 570 | 705 | 700 | 700 | 725 | 690 | 640 | 600 | 690 | 635 |
| Other[2] | 130 | 450 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 290 | 240 | 185 | 325 | 295 |
| Physical education | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,450 | 1,310 | 1,180 | 1,570 | 1,380 |
| Religious education | 665 | 650 | 700 | 700 | 730 | 730 | 685 | 665 | 740 | 695 |
| Sciences | 2,600 | 2,810 | 2,650 | 3,225 | 3,225 | 3,225 | 3,225 | 3,225 | 3,615 | 3,405 |
| Technology | 2,000 | 2,150 | 2,500 | 2,650 | 2,895 | 2,600 | 2,730 | 2,515 | 2,980 | 2,770 |
| of which[3] | | | | | | | | | | |
| Business Studies | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 760 | 730 | 680 | 600 | 590 | 505 |
| Design and Technology | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1,095 | 1,060 | 1,010 | 930 | 1,195 | 1,150 |
| Information and Communications Technology | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1,050 | 1,100 | 1,040 | 985 | 1,195 | 1,115 |
| Vocational subjects[4] | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 400 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Margin of flexibility/ Secondary reserve[5] | 250 | 150 | 100 | 400 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Primary and Secondary | 29,715 | 29,800 | 31,760 | 34,675 | 35,660 | 34,300 | 32,900 | 31,300 | 36,845 | 36,170 |

[1] Number of places prior to 2008/09 include school centred ITT but excludes employment based routes ITT (EBITT). Targets for 2008/09 onwards include EBITT, but exclude Teach First.

[2] 'Other' includes classics, dance, economics, media, performing arts, social sciences and social studies. For 2008/09 onwards also includes diploma subjects.

[3] Number of places for individual technology subjects is not available before 2004/05.

[4] Places for vocational subjects in 2006/07 onwards are included with the allocation for related academic subject. Science includes places for applied science; design and technology includes both manufacturing and engineering; ICT includes applied ICT; business studies includes applied business; geography includes leisure and tourism; art includes applied art and other includes health and social care. In 2003/04 the margin of flexibility included places for a vocational subjects pilot. In 2004/05 places for vocational subjects were shown separately.

[5] The margin of flexibility/secondary reserve constituted places that the TDA could allocate to any secondary subject, to support providers whose baselines would otherwise be below economic levels, to ensure the appropriate denominational balance and to help providers with a high proportion of places in shortage subjects and who therefore had particular uncertainty of income.

Source:
DCSF

*Table 2: Initial teacher training number of allocated places, 2003/04 to 2009/10, by Government office region*

| | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Primary and Secondary ITT courses* | | | | | | | |
| England | 34,740 | 35,710 | 35,470 | 33,720 | 32,720 | 32,290 | 33,030 |
| North East | 1,620 | 1,680 | 1,740 | 1,570 | 1,510 | 1,530 | 1,540 |
| North West | 6,200 | 6,270 | 6,370 | 6,140 | 5,960 | 5,880 | 5,930 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 3,690 | 3,660 | 3,640 | 3,530 | 3,460 | 3,350 | 3,260 |
| East Midlands | 2,160 | 2,290 | 2,160 | 2,080 | 2,020 | 2,030 | 2,020 |
| West Midlands | 3,110 | 3,260 | 3,160 | 3,100 | 2,970 | 2,940 | 3,310 |
| East of England | 2,740 | 2,690 | 2,600 | 2,570 | 2,470 | 2,390 | 2,430 |
| London | 6,080 | 6,260 | 6,350 | 6,080 | 5,860 | 5,740 | 5,840 |
| South East | 4,570 | 4,650 | 4,640 | 4,530 | 4,460 | 4,470 | 4,720 |
| South West | 3,770 | 3,670 | 3,640 | 3,770 | 3,670 | 3,630 | 3,650 |
| Non Regional | 960 | 880 | 570 | 340 | 340 | 340 | 350 |
| *Secondary ITT courses* | | | | | | | |
| England | 19,480 | 19,420 | 19,570 | 18,390 | 17,870 | 17,430 | 17,300 |
| North East | 900 | 900 | 950 | 830 | 790 | 810 | 790 |
| North West | 3,400 | 3,360 | 3,470 | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,210 | 3,170 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 2,130 | 2,100 | 2,060 | 1,900 | 1,860 | 1,740 | 1,640 |
| East Midlands | 1,150 | 1,140 | 1,050 | 1,020 | 1,010 | 1,020 | 950 |
| West Midlands | 1,910 | 1,900 | 1,880 | 1,820 | 1,750 | 1,740 | 1,810 |
| East of England | 1,480 | 1,510 | 1,400 | 1,340 | 1,270 | 1,190 | 1,140 |
| London | 3,220 | 3,250 | 3,360 | 3,220 | 3,100 | 2,930 | 2,940 |
| South East | 2,470 | 2,460 | 2,460 | 2,430 | 2,420 | 2,400 | 2,550 |
| South West | 2,220 | 2,270 | 2,350 | 2,290 | 2,140 | 2,140 | 2,070 |

*Table 2: Initial teacher training, number of allocated places, 2003/04 to 2009/10, by Government office region*

| | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Non-Regional | 500 | 510 | 500 | 260 | 260 | 250 | 250 |
| *Secondary ITT courses specialising in Dance* | | | | | | | |
| England | 50 | 90 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| North East | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East Midlands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Midlands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East of England | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| London | 40 | 40 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| South East | 0 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| South West | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 20 |
| Non-Regional | | | | | | | |
| *Secondary ITT courses specialising in Drama* | | | | | | | |
| England | 320 | 300 | 140 | 230 | 190 | 190 | 190 |
| North East | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North West | 50 | 70 | 0 | 60 | 50 | 60 | 60 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 40 | 40 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East Midlands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Midlands | 40 | 30 | 20 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| East of England | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| London | 130 | 120 | 40 | 90 | 80 | 60 | 60 |
| South East | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| South West | 30 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Non-Regional | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *Secondary ITT courses specialising in Music* | | | | | | | |
| England | 720 | 710 | 790 | 720 | 710 | 660 | 610 |
| North East | 40 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| North West | 90 | 100 | 120 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 120 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 60 | 60 | 60 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| East Midlands | 10 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 20 |
| West Midlands | 80 | 80 | 70 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| East of England | 30 | 30 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| London | 150 | 130 | 90 | 180 | 180 | 160 | 150 |
| South East | 100 | 100 | 110 | 110 | 100 | 90 | 100 |
| South West | 80 | 80 | 90 | 90 | 80 | 70 | 60 |
| Non-Regional | 80 | 60 | 60 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| *Secondary ITT courses specialising in Art (also includes Applied Art)* | | | | | | | |
| England | 990 | 940 | 820 | 760 | 640 | 560 | 540 |
| North East | 30 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| North West | 210 | 210 | 170 | 150 | 130 | 130 | 100 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 40 | 30 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East Midlands | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Midlands | 90 | 80 | 70 | 60 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| East of England | 90 | 80 | 70 | 60 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| London | 240 | 240 | 210 | 190 | 160 | 150 | 150 |
| South East | 140 | 130 | 120 | 110 | 90 | 90 | 70 |
| South West | 150 | 140 | 120 | 110 | 90 | 90 | 80 |

*Table 2: Initial teacher training, number of allocated places, 2003/04 to 2009/10, by Government office region*

| | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Non-Regional | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Notes:*

1. Number of allocated places include school centred ITT but excludes employment based ITT (EBITT). EBITT places are not allocated at subject level.
2. Places allocated in 2009/10 are provisional and subject to change.
3. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

TDA

## Teachers: Training

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what provision is made in the training of teachers to enable them to recognise and support children with Tourette syndrome. [306530]

**Mr. Coaker:** Government have invested significant resources in relation to improving training for the school work force in relation to special educational needs. For teachers this includes training resources at both undergraduate and postgraduate level which include elements addressing Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties, which encompasses Tourette Syndrome. The resources have been made available to all Initial Teacher Trainers and support is being provided to enable them to work together to share and improve their practice in this important area.

Furthermore, the national strategies have been funded by DCSF to develop and roll out an Inclusion Development Programme which will deliver specially designed training resources for the school work force that address areas of SEN that we know some find difficult—the third phase of this covers Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) and is due to be launched in March 2010.

## Young Offenders

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many electronic tag restrictions on children aged *(a)* 10 or 11, *(b)* 12 to 14 and *(c)* 15 to 17 years old have been (i) issued and (ii) breached in each year since 1997. [302441]

**Maria Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The Electronic Monitoring service began in 1999. The information as follows provides data on the number of electronic monitoring orders received by the electronic monitoring service providers for juveniles since 2005.

We cannot provide details on how many electronic orders were received for juveniles in the age groups requested. Nor can we provide details on the number of breaches. During 1999-2004, the contactors recorded data in a different way and they are not recorded centrally. To obtain these data from the previous contractors could only be done at a disproportionate cost.

| | Age | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Current contracts*[1] | *10-11* | *12-14* | *15-17* |
| *2005/06* | | | |
| Orders made | 43 | 2,808 | 13,723 |
| Orders reported for breach | 12 | 846 | 3,825 |
| *2006/07* | | | |
| Orders made | 56 | 3,538 | 17,832 |
| Orders reported for breach | 23 | 1,278 | 5,844 |
| *2007/08* | | | |
| Orders made | 64 | 3,628 | 20,078 |
| Orders reported for breach | 34 | 1,609 | 8,802 |
| *2008/09* | | | |
| Orders made | 38 | 3,469 | 19,736 |
| Orders reported for breach | 20 | 1,593 | 8,815 |

[1] Financial year. Under the current contracts, juveniles are defined as 10-17 year olds

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children aged between 10 and 17 years old were first-time entrants to the criminal justice system through receiving their first caution or conviction in each of the last 10 years. [306684]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* Live Police National Computer (PNC) data were first collected in 1995. Between 1997 and 1999 work was ongoing to improve the quality of the data collection on first time entrants (FTE) to the criminal justice system aged 10 to 17 in order to bring them to a standard sufficient to support the publication of national statistics.

The first year these data became available for publication was for 2000-01. Data for 2000-09 are published here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000895/index.shtml

## Young People: Alcoholic Drinks

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to assist schools to encourage responsible alcohol consumption in young people. [306935]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Revised drug and alcohol guidance for schools was issued for consultation on 13 November. This new guidance includes a far greater emphasis on alcohol and sets clear expectations around both alcohol education and how schools deal with alcohol-related incidents. It also provides information on further sources of support.

We have also announced our intention to make drug and alcohol education statutory as part of PSHE education and subject to parliamentary approval. This will ensure all schools provide information and education about alcohol, supported by a clear curriculum.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized businesses in the London Borough of Bexley are employing apprentices. [306567]

**Kevin Brennan:** Data on the number and size of the employers supporting apprentices are not collected via the individualised leaner record (ILR) and hence the information requested is not currently available.

From the 2009/10 academic year, this information will be available on the ILR when a unique employer identifier will have to be provided by all employers of apprentices.

We can provide an estimate of the size of employers that offer and have recruited apprentices from the National Employer Skills Survey (NESS). These data are based on repeated surveys of around 79,000 employers across all business sectors in England. Table 1 shows information from the published 2007 National Employer Skills survey[1] on the number of organisations that had any staff undertaking an apprenticeship in the 12 months prior to interview, by size of employer.

[1] http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-nessurvey2007 mainreport-may08.pdf accessed on 11 December 2009.

*Table 1: Percentage of employers that have recruited an apprentice in the last 12 months (NESS 2007)*

| | | Number of employees of employer | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All employers* | *2-4* | *5-24* | *25-99* | *100-199* | *200-499* | *500+* |
| Percentage of employers that have recruited an apprentice over the previous 12 months (NESS 2007) | 6 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 15 | 19 | 26 |

### Apprentices: Finance

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what arrangements his Department has put in place for funding for apprenticeships for those aged 19 or more during the transition period between the winding down of the Learning and Skills Council and the creation of the Skills Funding Agency. [304321]

**Kevin Brennan:** The transition of responsibilities from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) will not have any impact on the funding of adult apprenticeships and will not affect the work of training providers in delivering apprenticeships in England. The National Apprenticeship Service, which was established earlier this year, will provide continuity in the promotion and delivery of apprenticeships to employers and to young people and adults.

### Apprentices: Staffordshire

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many adult apprenticeships have been completed at the Tamworth campus of South Staffordshire College in each of the last five years; and how many he expects will be completed in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [304169]

**Kevin Brennan:** Reliable information on apprenticeship achievements is not available for individual campuses.

Information on learner numbers at Tamworth and Lichfield College is available via the College Accounts at:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/pfm/fniancial-support/College+Accounts.htm

This provides information for Tamworth and Lichfield College in 2007/08 and earlier, before the creation of South Staffordshire College.

Information on success rates for South Staffordshire College can be found in the latest Ofsted inspection report at

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk

Information on projected apprenticeship achievements is available at national level only.

Apprenticeship Framework achievements are published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 22 October 2009 at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09

This includes apprenticeship framework achievements by parliamentary constituency but does not contain information at provider level. The next SFR, with final data on apprenticeships for 2008/09, is due to be published on 17 December 2009.

### Business: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of businesses in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency which are involved in manufacturing. [307598]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

> As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what recent estimate has made of the proportion of businesses in (a) Essex and (b) Castle Point constituency which are involved in manufacturing. (307598)
>
> The table below contains counts of enterprises taken from the Inter-departmental Business Register in March 2009.

*2009*

| | *Manufacturing* | *Total* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Essex County | 3,730 | 53,270 | 7 |
| Castle Point | 210 | 2,765 | 8 |

## Business: Yorkshire and the Humber

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for public administration, defence and compulsory social security in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [305820]

(2) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for real estate, renting and business activities in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and (c) Leeds, West constituency area; [305821]

(3) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for financial intermediation in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area. [305822]

(4) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for fishing in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306115]

(5) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for agriculture, hunting and forestry in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306116]

(6) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for private households employing staff and undifferentiated production activities of households for own use in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306117]

(7) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for other community, social and personal service activities in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306118]

(8) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for health and social work in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306119]

(9) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for extra-territorial organisations and bodies in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306120]

(10) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for education in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306121]

(11) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for the manufacturing of machinery and equipment not elsewhere classified in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds West constituency areas; [306128]

(12) how many companies are registered under UK standard industry classification codes for the manufacturing of basic metals and fabricated metal products in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306129]

(13) how many companies are registered under UK standard industry classification codes for the manufacturing of other non-metallic mineral products in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306130]

(14) how many companies are registered under UK standard industry classification codes for the manufacturing of rubber and plastic products in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306131]

(15) how many companies are registered under UK standard industry classification codes for the manufacturing of chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306132]

(16) how many companies are registered under UK standard industry classification codes for the manufacturing of coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306133]

(17) how many companies are registered under UK standard industry classification codes for the publishing of newspapers in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306134]

(18) how many companies are registered under UK standard industry classification codes for the publishing of books in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306135]

(19) how many companies are registered under UK standard industry classification codes for publishing, printing and reproduction of recorded media in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306136]

(20) how many companies are registered under UK standard industry classification codes for pulp, paper and paper products in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306137]

(21) how many companies are registered under UK standard industry classification codes for wood and wood products in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306138]

(22) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for leather and leather products in *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306139]

(23) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for manufacturing of textiles and textile products in *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306140]

(24) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry ,Classification codes for manufacturing of food products and beverages in *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306141]

(25) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for manufacturing in *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306142]

(26) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for hotels in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306174]

(27) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for hotels and restaurants in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306175]

(28) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for repair of personal and household goods in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306176]

(29) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for retail trade in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306177]

(30) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for wholesale trade and commission trade in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306178]

(31) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for retail sale of automotive fuel in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306179]

(32) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for sale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306180]

(33) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for construction in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306181]

(34) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for electricity, gas and water supply in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306182]

(35) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for the manufacturing not elsewhere classified in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306183]

(36) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for the manufacturing of transport equipment in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306184]

(37) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for the manufacturing of electrical and optical equipment in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306185]

(38) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for supporting and auxiliary transport activities: activities of travel agencies in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306186]

(39) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for freight transport by road in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306187]

(40) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for transport, storage and communications in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306188]

(41) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for bars in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area; [306189]

(42) how many companies are registered under UK Standard Industry Classification codes for restaurants in the *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds City and *(c)* Leeds, West constituency area. [306190]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions.

The estimates in the following table are taken from the Inter-Departmental Business Register and show the count of companies by requested classification as at March 2008, the latest date for which estimates are available. All classifications are based on the UK Standard Industry Classification 2003.

The table contains counts of companies held on the Inter-Departmental Business Register. The counts exclude units that are classified as sole proprietors, partnerships, and businesses classified to the non-profit or public sector.

| *UK Standard Industrial Classification 2003* | *West Yorkshire Metropolitan County* | *Leeds* | *Leeds, West* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 75 Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 70-74 Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities | 12,565 | 5,250 | 315 |
| 65-67 Financial Intermediation | 645 | 275 | 5 |
| 05 Fishing | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| 01-02 Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry | 275 | 90 | 5 |
| 95-97 Private Households Employing Staff and Undifferentiated Production Activities of Households for Own Use | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 90-93 Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activity | 1,560 | 630 | 30 |
| 85 Health and Social Work | 720 | 245 | 10 |
| 99 Extra-territorial Organisations and Bodies | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| *UK Standard Industrial Classification 2003* | *West Yorkshire Metropolitan County* | *Leeds* | *Leeds, West* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 80 Education | 405 | 140 | 10 |
| 29 Manufacture of Machinery and Equipment Not Elsewhere Classified | 460 | 115 | 20 |
| 27-28 Manufacture of Basic Metals and Fabricated Metal Products | 875 | 220 | 35 |
| 26 Manufacture of Other Non-metallic Mineral Products | 140 | 30 | 5 |
| 25 Manufacture of Rubber and Plastic Products | 245 | 50 | 5 |
| 24 Manufacture of Chemicals, Chemical Products and Man-made Fibres | 120 | 40 | 5 |
| 23 Manufacture of Coke, Refined Petroleum Products and Nuclear Fuel | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 2212 Publishing of newspapers | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 2211 Publishing of books | 35 | 15 | 0 |
| 22 Publishing, Printing and Reproduction of Recorded Media | 595 | 255 | 45 |
| 21 Manufacture of Pulp, Paper and Paper Products Publishing and Printing | 65 | 15 | 0 |
| 20 Manufacture of Wood and Wood Products | 215 | 55 | 10 |
| 19 Manufacture of Leather and Leather Products | 25 | 10 | 0 |
| 17 -18 Manufacture of Textiles and Textile Products | 370 | 85 | 10 |
| 15 Manufacture of Food Products, Beverages and Tobacco | 145 | 40 | 0 |
| 15-37 Manufacturing | 4,225 | 1,215 | 175 |
| 5510 Hotels | 75 | 25 | 0 |
| 55 Hotels and Restaurants | 1,285 | 525 | 40 |
| 5271-5274 Repair of Personal and Household Goods | 95 | 30 | 0 |
| 52 Retail | 2,865 | 1,040 | 70 |
| 51 Wholesale Trade and Commission Trade, Except of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles | 2,820 | 915 | 85 |
| 5050 Retail sate of automotive fuel | 60 | 15 | 5 |
| 5010-5040 Sale, Maintenance and Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles | 1,050 | 310 | 45 |
| 45 Construction | 4,410 | 1,530 | 170 |
| 40-41 Electricity, Gas and Water Supply | 10 | 5 | 0 |
| 36-37 Manufacture Not Elsewhere Classified | 490 | 145 | 20 |
| 34-35 Manufacture of Transport Equipment | 115 | 25 | 0 |
| 30-33 Manufacture of Electrical and Optical Equipment | 440 | 150 | 15 |
| 63 Supporting and Auxiliary Transport Activities; Activities of Travel Agencies | 335 | 100 | 10 |
| 6024 Freight transport by road | 600 | 155 | 20 |
| 60-64 Transport, Storage and Communications | 1,345 | 420 | 50 |
| 5540 Bars | 420 | 155 | 15 |
| 5530 Restaurants | 665 | 285 | 15 |

## Competition Commission: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments the Competition Commission has made to Euro RSCG Apex in each of the last three years; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [302303]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Competition Commission has made payments totalling £16,690 to Euro RSCG Apex over the last three years—£11,867.50 in 2007/08, £3,701.25 in 2008/09 and £1,121.25 in 2009/10. The payments related to strategic communications advice provided to the CC on specific investigations and for the organisation in general. The advice has been provided under the terms of a three year contract which can be terminated by the CC at any point with a month's notice. The contract is subject to the normal considerations of confidentiality regarding a commercial agreement such as this and it would not be appropriate to place a copy in the Library.

## Construction: Economic Situation

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent assessment is of the effects on the construction industry of the recession; and if he will make a statement. [305294]

**Ian Lucas:** According to data published on 3 December by the Office for National Statistics, total construction output in the third quarter of 2009 rose by 2 per cent. compared with the previous quarter. An increase in repair and maintenance of 10 per cent. over the previous quarter offset a fall in new work of 4 per cent.

Information on construction new orders is more volatile, but data published on 10 December showed infrastructure and public non-housing work holding up, with increases of 46 per cent. and 13 per cent. respectively in the 12 months to October 2009 when compared with the previous 12 month period. Overall, new orders were 5 per cent. down in the three months to October compared with the previous three months, and fell by 19 per cent. in the 12 months to October 2009 compared with the previous 12 month period.

### Construction: Government Assistance

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department intends to take to support the construction industry in the next two years. [307246]

**Ian Lucas:** On 1 December the Department and the Office of Government Commerce, HM Treasury, took a major step in appointing Paul Morrell as the Chief Construction Adviser. Key tasks for Paul include driving the implementation and further development of best value construction procurement; and leading the low carbon construction Innovation and Growth Team which will assess the key barriers to growth in the UK's low carbon construction sector to ensure the UK industry is well placed to serve developing needs and markets.

### Dietetics

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Masters of Dietetics degrees were awarded in each of the last five years. [307078]

**Mr. Lammy:** Information on Masters degrees awarded in dietetics is not available and the numbers of Masters qualifiers in Nutrition are given as an alternative in the table.

Nutrition is classified as a principal subject in the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record and includes courses in nutrition and dietetics.

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available from HESA in January.

### Employment Schemes

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of participants in the Learning and Skills Council's Golden Hello scheme his Department estimates have not completed their training in the last 12 months. [304567]

**Kevin Brennan:** The main objective of the Further Education Golden Hello scheme is to provide an incentive to improve the retention of teachers in the sector. The scheme's eligibility criteria do not require teachers to have completed training at the point of application for or payment of the Golden Hello. Consequently the Department does not require the LSC to collect information on completion of training for the purposes of the scheme.

Applicants, who must be in their second year of teaching, must show that they either hold or are working towards a Diploma to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (DTLLS) qualification. The Further Education Teachers' Qualifications (England) Regulations 2007 regulations require those who don't hold DTLLS as they commence teaching to complete their training within five years, during which time they can be employed in a full teaching role.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria the Learning and Skills Council applies for the selection of participants in its Golden Hello scheme. [304568]

**Kevin Brennan:** The full eligibility criteria and self assessment guidance for the Further Education Golden Hello Scheme are published each year via the Teachernet website:

www.teachernet.gov.uk.

In summary applicants must meet all of the following key criteria:

(a) be directly employed by, and in their second ever year of teaching in, an eligible FE institution.

(b) at the time the application is received by the LSC, have a teaching contract for at least one term.

(c) be teaching one or more of the designated shortage subjects.

(d) be qualified with or, at the time of application, be undertaking and working towards a Diploma to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (DTLLS) qualification.

### Higher Education: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people applied for places at universities in Leeds for the academic year 2009-10; and how many studied at such universities in 2008-09. [306602]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest figures are shown in the table. Each applicant can submit up to five applications, except those applying to Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science courses who can submit up to four applications. The 2009-10 application numbers cover applicants who applied via the UCAS main scheme by 30 June.

Comprehensive data on students who studied at higher education institutions in 2008-09 will become available in January. Figures are therefore provided on accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS in 2008-09.

*Accepted applicants and applications to full-time undergraduate courses*

| | *Applicants accepted for entry in 2008/09* | *Applications for entry in 2009/10* |
|---|---|---|
| Leeds Metropolitan University | 7,447 | 36,860 |
| The University of Leeds | 7,582 | 51,694 |
| Leeds Trinity and All Saints[1] | 899 | 4,540 |

[1] An accredited college of the University of Leeds

*Source:*
UCAS

### Higher Education: Qualifications

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the targeted allocations provided by the Higher Education Funding Council for England for *(a)* foundation degrees, *(b)* old and historic buildings and *(c)* accelerated and intensive provision of postgraduate taught subjects in price band D, with specific reference to the contribution of each to (i) teaching and learning, (ii) widening participation in higher education and (iii) helping re-train people in the recession. [303748]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department has made no assessment of the effectiveness of these three targeted allocations.

In July HEFCE launched a consultation on the future of these three targeted allocations. That closed on 14 October 2009. At their meeting on 27 November 2009, the HEFCE board considered proposals to reduce or phase out these allocations. Final decisions will be taken early in the new year, in the light of confirmed allocations for 2010-11.

### Hospitality Industry: Training

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress has been made on the provision of skills training for those working in the hospitality industry; and if he will make a statement. [306516]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The Government are working in a number of ways to support the efforts of the hospitality industry to improve the skills of its workforce.

The National Skills Academy (NSA) for Hospitality forms a key part of the sector's skills strategy, and is backed by leading sector employers. The NSA provides the sector with quality assured training programmes to help to fill skills shortages.

A key priority for the sector is to upskill our domestic workforce to fill vacancies in the sector, and so reduce the sector's reliance on migration. Crucial to this is the roll out of the Government's Young Person's Guarantee. Hospitality, leisure and tourism is one of the first sectors to benefit from the 'Routes into Work' programme, which funds pre-employment training for 18 to 24-year-olds who have been long-term unemployed, with a guarantee of a job in the sector. We are also working with the sector on skills for the ethnic catering industry, where a review of qualifications is taking place and a long term strategy is being developed to reduce reliance on migration and upskill UK workers.

In addition, the industry's Sector Skills Council, People 1st, earlier this year received a new licence from Government, following a recommendation for relicensing by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills.

### Learning and Skills Council for England

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 987W, on Learning and Skills Council for England: correspondence, when the review of processes will be completed. [306917]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* I can confirm that the review of processes will be completed shortly, with a view to implementing any necessary changes early in the new year.

### Office of Fair Trading: Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Office of Fair Trading has spent on hotel accommodation for its officials in each of the last five years. [306041]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Office of Fair Trading's expenditure on hotel accommodation for the last three years was as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008/09 | 100,932 |
| 2007/08 | 127,005 |
| 2006/07 | 88,900 |

Expenditure on hotel accommodation was not separately recorded in prior years, and it is not therefore possible to produce this information without disproportionate cost.

Travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code".

### Office of Fair Trading: Training

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) buildings attended by civil servants in the OFT there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307455]

**Kevin Brennan:** OFT's expenditure on conferences since 2005 is shown in the following table.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| January 2005 - March 2005 | 22,445 |
| 2005-06 (April-March) | 108,562 |
| 2006-07 | 214,221 |
| 2007-08 | 80,495 |
| 2008-09 | 118,274 |

Information on the number of conferences attended, and on away days generally, is not available without disproportionate cost.

### Older Workers: Vocational Training

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of people over 55 years old have been assisted in learning new job skills in each of the last three years. [303573]

**Kevin Brennan:** Data are available from the Labour Force Survey on self-reported participation in training related to their current job or a job they might be able to do in the future for England.

These estimates will not include everyone obtaining new job skills as some people surveyed may be studying for relevant qualifications that they do not personally consider to be job related.

Table 1 shows the proportion of working age people over 55 years old who say they have participated in training related to a current or future job in Quarter 2 (April to June) for the last three years. Annual estimates are not available as the question is only asked on the Labour Force Survey in Quarter 2 and covers only the preceding three months.

*Table 1: Training for working age people over 55 year-old in England*

| | *Number reporting being in training for a current or future job* | *Percentage reporting being in training for a current or future job* |
|---|---|---|
| Q2 2007 | 472,000 | 12.0 |
| Q2 2008 | 500,000 | 12.5 |
| Q2 2009 | 505,000 | 11.6 |

Base:
55-59/64 year olds, England
Source:
Labour Force Survey

We also hold information on the number of learners that were participating in LSC-funded Further Education. Table 2 shows the number of learners aged 55 or over participating in some form of further education. Note that not all of these learners will be learning skills relevant to a new job.

*Table 2: Participation in Further Education of learners aged 55 or over*

| | *Participation for learners aged 55 or over* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | [illegible] |
| 2006-07 | 536,000 |
| 2007-08 | [illegible] |

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred
2. 2. Age is based on academic age as at 31 August of the start of the academic year
Source:
FE ILR

### Policy Objectives

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many regulatory impact assessments have cited peace of mind as a policy objective since 1997. [illegible]

**Ian Lucas:** Analysis has been carried out on impact assessments contained within the impact assessment library, published on the BRE website, which date between 1 January 2008 and 18 December 2009, totalling 450 impact assessments.

No impact assessments were found to cite peace of mind as a policy objective.

### Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on the national skills base of the proposed reduction in the number of publicly-funded bodies in the skills sector by 30 over the next three years, as referred to on page 54 of Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government, Cm 7753. [illegible]

**Kevin Brennan:** This proposal was first outlined in "Skills for Growth—the National Skills Strategy" in November. It takes forward a recommendation made by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) and addresses employer concerns that the skills system continues to be over complicated, with too many separate bodies playing a role.

Simplifying the landscape through reducing the number of intermediary bodies will contribute to a more effective national skills system, and allow more resources to be focused on front-line delivery.

Part of the reduction includes consolidation of the UK-wide sector skills council (SSC) network, creating a better fit with the likely sector boundaries of the future. Government will look to UKCES to work with SSCs to bring forward proposals for this consolidation. As has been the case with the relicensing of SSCs, we will continue to work closely with the devolved Administrations and other departmental sponsors of the commission, to ensure that this process takes full account of the impacts on, and priorities of, the whole of the UK. This also ensures that employers are involved in the development and ownership of the bodies which emerge from this process.

### Regulations: Audit

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Financial Reporting Council on the regulation of audit firms. [306843]

**Ian Lucas:** This Department regularly has discussions with the Financial Reporting Council and its operating bodies about a range of issues, including the regulation of audit firms.

As part of this, I met Dame Barbara Mills QC, the Chair of the Professional Oversight Board, which oversees the regulation of audit firms, on 14 October, to discuss the Board's annual report.

### Students: Disabled

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to Lord Addington of 5 November 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 372, on disabled people: student loans, what arrangements the Government has with universities and colleges to ensure that there is financial support for disabled students in the event of delays in the assessment or payments of support; how many individual students have been supported using these arrangements in the academic year 2009-10; what the average period of support for disabled students has been; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the financial support given under such arrangements. [307712]

**Mr. Lammy:** This is an operational matter for which Postcomm has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked Postcomm's Chief Executive, Tim Brown, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Students: Loans

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many enquiries have been made to the Student Loans Company *(a)* by telephone, *(b)* by email, *(c)* via its website and *(d)* by other methods in each of the last six years. [302502]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Student Loans Company has provided the information set out in the following table:

| Financial year | Telephone calls received by contact centre | Queries received via website | Correspondence received |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Number* |
| 2004-05 | 2,743,665 | n/a | 252,566 |
| 2005-06 | 2,373,175 | n/a | 192,457 |
| 2006-07 | 2,504,190 | 52,107 | 187,300 |
| 2007-08 | 2,831,382 | 158,278 | 148,446 |
| 2008-09 | 3,298,052 | 70,780 | 157,076 |
| 2009-2010 to date | 3,233,622 | 70,105 | 103,699 |

*Notes:* 1. Figures in the table are those in relation to Student Finance England, Student Finance Northern Ireland and income contingent repayments for borrowers across the UK. It is not possible to break down the figures further.
2. 'Queries through website' refers to the secure messaging function on the Student Finance Direct/Directgov website.

## Tax

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many regulatory impact assessments have included mitigation of the general reluctance to pay tax as an issue since 1997. [304842]

**Ian Lucas:** Analysis has been carried out on impact assessments contained within the impact assessment library, published on the BRE website, which date between 1 January 2008 and 18 December 2009, totalling 450 impact assessments.

From these it was found that five included mitigation of the general reluctance to pay tax as an issue:

Changes to rules on loan relationships;

Identifying users of disclosed tax avoidance schemes;

Impact assessment of ratification of the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings;

Impact assessment of legal powers to support the creation of the UK Border Agency;

Final impact assessment of common travel area (CTA) reform.

## Trade Agreements: Peru

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on its decision to continue multiparty trade agreement negotiations with Peru; and if he will make a statement. [304480]

**Ian Lucas:** The EU and Peru, Colombia and Ecuador began negotiations on a multiparty trade agreement in January 2009, after negotiations between the EU and the Community of Andean Nations had stalled. Ecuador has since dropped out of negotiations, but remains an interested observer.

Officials from the joint BIS/DFID Trade Policy Unit have been in continuous liaison with the European Commission throughout the negotiations, via routine representation to the Article 133 Committee (now the Trade Policy Committee, since entry into force of the Lisbon treaty) and associated meetings in Brussels.

## UK Trade and Investment: Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much UK Trade and Investment has spent on hotel accommodation for its staff in each of the last five years. [305710]

**Ian Lucas:** UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) does not directly employ staff but draws on resource from its two parent departments the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). UKTI has offices in 98 different countries, the nine English regions, London and Glasgow.

UKTI holds financial information on travel and accommodation costs at the aggregate level centrally while detailed information is held locally. To provide the information requested would require obtaining detailed information from each location and therefore can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Vocational Training: East of England

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding under the *(a)* Train to Gain and *(b)* Skills for Life programme was provided to each college in the East of England in 2008-09; and how much such funding has been allocated under each such programme for 2009-10. [307599]

**Kevin Brennan:** Funding is allocated by the Learning and Skills Council to further education (FE) colleges and training organisations on an academic year basis. In the east of England, FE colleges were allocated a total of nearly £36 million in 2008/09 academic year for Train to Gain, and have maximum contract values worth £34 million in 2009/10 academic year.

We are unable to provide a breakdown of the funding allocated for Skills for Life provision. Skills for Life is a collective term, used to describe learning delivered to improve literacy, language and numeracy skills, which can be delivered through different programme lines eg Adult Learner Responsive and Employer Responsive. The amount of funding made available for Skills for Life at a national level is based on planned levels of activity for an academic year but funding to FE colleges and training organisations is not allocated at this level. Nationally, planned investment in adult (19+) Skills for Life courses delivered through Train to Gain and Adult Learner Responsive routes is nearly £600 million for 2008-09 financial year and around £630 million for 2009-10 financial year.

The proposed funding for 2010-11 for FE and Skills has recently been published in the Skills Investment Strategy, and further information and statistics regarding funding for individual FE colleges and geographical areas are available on the website of the Learning and Skills Council (www.lsc.gov.uk).

*Train to Gain allocations for FE colleges in the east of England*

| | | *£* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Final maximum contract value* | |
| *Further education college* | *Final 2008/09* | *Provisional 2009/10* |
| Barnfield College | 490,000 | 662,904 |
| Bedford College | 2,200,002 | 1,985,420 |
| Braintree College | 1,017,573 | 745,050 |
| Cambridge Regional College | 5,700,000 | 6,600,009 |
| Chelmsford College | 145,000 | 92,317 |
| Colchester Institute | 1,520,656 | 664,188 |

*Train to Gain allocations for FE colleges in the east of England*

£

| Further education college | Final maximum contract value | |
|---|---|---|
| | Final 2008/09 | Provisional 2009/10 |
| College of West Anglia | 1,870,001 | 2,442,585 |
| Dunstable College (now Central Bedfordshire College) | 84,305 | 306,017 |
| Epping Forest College | 156,574 | 100,248 |
| Great Yarmouth College of Further Education | 218,774 | 249,718 |
| Harlow College | 2,478,323 | 1,901,163 |
| Hertford Regional College | 753,676 | 1,089,564 |
| Huntingdonshire Regional College | 2,289,213 | 2,492,278 |
| Lowestoft College | 861,253 | 499,749 |
| North Hertfordshire College | 6,560,001 | 5,057,221 |
| Norwich City College of Further and Higher Education | 1,651,588 | 1,392,463 |
| Oaklands College | 1,099,657 | 1,557,933 |
| Otley College of Agriculture and Horticulture | 340,000 | 317,663 |
| Peterborough Regional College | 1,149,999 | 902,959 |
| South East Essex College of Arts and Technology, Southend | 1,799,999 | 1,467,919 |
| Suffolk New College | 350,082 | 344,832 |
| West Herts College | 61,619 | 214,744 |
| West Suffolk College | 3,100,006 | 2,865,479 |
| Writtle College | 38,401 | 51,398 |

## Vocational Training: Expenditure

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of professional education and training for *(a)* lawyers, *(b)* accountants, *(c)* plumbers and *(d)* electricians in the last 12 months. [303025]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department continues to ensure that funds are deployed to support adults into sustainable employment and further learning. For the 2010-11 financial year we plan to invest £3.5 billion in adult training through the Skills Funding Agency, an increase of 3 per cent. compared with 2009-10. Investment routed through the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is £7.8 billion in 2009-10. Figures for 2010-11 will be published in January 2010.

Funding is not allocated at an individual course level to Further Education (FE) colleges, Higher Education Institutions and other training institutions. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and HEFCE are able to provide estimates of funds directed towards specific qualifications based on enrolment information. The estimated funds for 2007/08[1] are provided in the following table.

[1] The data provided refer to 2007/08 academic year as this is the most recent academic year for which there is a complete set of data. The academic year 2008/09 has only just finished and data are not yet finalised.

*Estimated funding for 2007/08 through LSC and HEFCE*

£ million

| Public funding for qualifications in:[1] | LSC Levels 1-4[2] | HEFCE professional post-graduate[3] |
|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Law | 7.3 | 0.5 |
| *(b)* Accountancy | 31.1 | 3.4 |
| *(c)* Plumbing | 33.1 | — |
| *(d)* Electrician and related | 11.5 | — |

[1] It is expected that the primary source of funding for professional qualifications at post-graduate level will be the learner or their employer and for LSC-funded qualifications outside of national entitlements there is an expected learner or employer contribution.

[2] Data provided by the LSC; figures are theoretical funding derived from the number of learners enrolled on courses with "law," "accountancy," "plumbing" or "electrician" or related terms in the course title. This includes qualifications ranging from Level 1 (foundation learning) to Level 4 (degree equivalent) delivered through FE, Train to Gain and Apprenticeships). Professional qualifications at post-graduate level in law and accountancy would be funded, where public money is involved, by HEFCE.

[3] Data provided by HEFCE; notional grant funding which is the standard resource for 2007/08 minus the assumed fee income. These data include undergraduate courses that are explicitly returned as professional course aims to HESA data; this would not include general undergraduate courses (such as first degrees).

## Voting Rights: Public Companies

**Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to review the operation of company law in respect of the sale and purchase of shares for the purposes of restricting voting rights in respect of public companies. [306848]

**Ian Lucas:** I expect shareholders to take their responsibilities as company owners seriously. I welcome the Financial Reporting Council's agreement to take responsibility for a stewardship code for institutional investors, building on the work of the Institutional Shareholders' Committee. The Government believe that it is important for long term sustainable growth that there is effective engagement between companies and institutional shareholders, and want to see London as a centre of excellence in this area. My noble Friend the Secretary of State will be meeting leading companies and institutional shareholders on 11 January 2010 to explore with them how engagement in the UK market might be made more effective.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Animal Experiments: Wales

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were conducted in Wales in 2008. [306291]

**Meg Hillier:** The number of scientific procedures on living animals started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Wales in 2008 was 49,452.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places in Wales were designated as *(a)* a supplying establishment, *(b)* a breeding establishment and *(c)* a scientific procedure establishment under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 at the end of 2008. [306299]

**Meg Hillier:** As at 31 December 2008, in Wales, seven places were designated as user establishments under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, one was designated as a supplying establishment and two were designated as breeding establishments.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the primary purpose was of each *(a)* procedure and *(b)* field of research carried out on animals in Wales in 2008 under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 involving (i) fish, (ii) pigs and (iii) genetically modified animals; and what the reasons were for the increase in the number of procedures carried out on (A) fish, (B) pigs and (C) genetically modified animals in Wales in that year in relation to the previous year; [306302]

(2) what proportion of the regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 which were conducted in Wales in 2008 were performed in *(a)* public health laboratories, *(b)* universities and medical schools, *(c)* national health service hospitals, *(d)* Government departments, *(e)* other public bodies, *(f)* non-profit making organisations and *(g)* commercial organisations; [306292]

(3) how many *(a)* genetically modified animals and *(b)* animals with a harmful genetic defect were used in regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 which were conducted in Wales in 2008. [306290]

**Meg Hillier:** In line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (implementing the Statistics and Registration Act 2007), and the National Statistician's guidance "Confidentiality of Official Statistics", the information requested is not available. Providing the information requested would breach statistical confidentiality relating to individual establishments.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many procedures carried out on animals in Wales in 2008 under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 involved *(a)* New World primates and *(b)* Old World primates; and what the primary purposes of those procedures were. [306303]

**Meg Hillier:** There were no scientific procedures on living animals started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Wales in 2008 using primates.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders: West Yorkshire

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued to residents of *(a)* Leeds, West constituency and *(b)* West Yorkshire since 2002. [306929]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The latest available published data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued covers the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2007 and are not available below criminal justice system (CJS) area level.

The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in the West Yorkshire CJS area between 2002 and 2007 is 1,102.

The majority of these ASBOs will have been issued to persons resident in West Yorkshire, however it is possible for courts to issue an ASBO to a person whether or not they reside in the area served by the court. Centrally collected information on ASBOs issued does not include details of the location of ASBO recipients' residences. This information could only be ascertained by examination of individual court files, which could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

### Borders: Personal Records

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his estimate is of the number of passenger movements *(a)* into and *(b)* from the UK in each of the next five years; and what percentage of them will be subject to an (i) entry and (ii) exit check. [306314]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The UK Border Agency is not responsible for providing estimates of the number of passenger movements expected into or out of the UK, over the next five years.

We expect the e-Borders system to screen 95 per cent. of all passenger movements into and out of the UK by the end of December 2010, which will cover all major commercial traffic. The remaining 5 per cent. represents private aviation and the small craft category and we expect to have 100 per cent. coverage by the end of March 2014.

### Christmas

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [305716]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 19 December 2009]:* The Department does not have a central budget for Christmas trees. At 2 Marsham street, the Christmas trees have been provided by the building's facilities management supplier at no additional cost to the Department.

### Crimes of Violence: Schools

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pupils in each region were *(a)* convicted, *(b)* permanently excluded and *(c)* temporarily excluded for (i) assaulting and (ii) sexually assaulting teachers or other school staff in each of the last three years. [305015]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply.

The Court Proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice contains information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales on a persons basis. These data include information on the age of the defendant, their gender, the police force area and court where proceedings took place as well as the specific offence and statute for the offence. Other than where specified in a statute statistical information held does not identify the employment status of a victim of an offence.

Data on reasons for exclusion include information on physical assault, verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against an adult, and on sexual misconduct, but not specifically against teachers or school staff.

In 2005/06, data on fixed period exclusions and on reasons for permanent exclusion were collected from secondary schools only.

The available information on reasons for exclusion by local authority and Government office region is published as follows:

*2007/08*

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml

table 21 for permanent exclusions and table 22 for fixed period or temporary exclusions.

*2006/07*

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

table 22 for permanent exclusions and table 23 for fixed period exclusions.

*2005/06*

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml

table 15 for permanent exclusions and table 16 for fixed period exclusions, from maintained secondary schools.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305692]

**Mr. Woolas:** Nothing has been spent other than on routine minor maintenance.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305493]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information is contained in annual statistics on the operation of the Freedom of Information Act in central Government, published by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The report for 2008 is available on the MOJ website at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/foi-statistics-report-2008.pdf

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1774W, on departmental ICT, what the job title and job specification is of each of the embedded communicators; and what the responsibilities are of *(a)* embedded communicators and *(b)* officials working in (i) his Department's press office and (ii) a communications department in one of his Department's agencies. [305169]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Home Office Crime Reduction and Community Safety Group (CRCSG) is now the Crime and Policing Group (CPG). The job titles and specifications of their communications staff are listed in Table 1. The communicators in the Office of Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) are listed in Table 2.

The UK Border Agency became an agency on 1 April 2009 meaning the communication team are no longer embedded in relation to the Home Office.

Press officers are not considered to be embedded communicators although their responsibilities include:

organising ministerial interviews, visits, announcements and publicity around speeches and events;

providing timely proactive and reactive media handling advice to Ministers and senior officials;

skilfully and effectively briefing journalists accurately and with authority;

working closely with Ministers' private offices, officials and communications colleagues to plan and implement media strategies across a broad range of media outlets including specialist, lifestyle, online and other new media; and

developing an understanding of issues across the Department.

The role of officials in the Press Office is to:

provide administration support to the senior management team;

lead on recruitment and training of staff;

manage press office systems ensuring press release statements and operational notes reach the target audience;

manage TV interviews; and

book travel and accommodation on behalf of press officers.

The responsibilities of communicators in the Home Office's agency, UK Border Agency are:

promoting compliance with immigration and customs requirements, and deterring illegality, by highlighting penalties and enforcement activity;

facilitating legitimate travel and trade by providing information to the travelling public, applicants and businesses on customs and immigration requirements;

engaging with customers, stakeholders, the public and staff in order to improve our services and policies;

facilitating good management of the agency through providing information to, and engagement with, the agency's 25,000 staff in 135 countries; and

facilitating visits to agency facilities and services by parliamentarians, diplomatic visitors and other stakeholders.

The roles of officials working in the communication department include stakeholder support staff, administrators, technical staff, managers and non-specialists.

*Table 1: Communication staff in the Crime and Policing Group*

| *Job title* | *Job specification* |
|---|---|
| Stakeholder communications | Leads on management, delivery and evaluation of CPG communications and stakeholder engagement projects in order to deliver business objectives |
| Crime communications adviser | Leads on communication strategies across the crime agenda as covered by the Crime Directorate |
| Drugs and alcohol communicators adviser | Leads on communication strategies across the drugs, alcohol and partnership agenda as covered by the Drugs Alcohol and Partnerships Directorate |
| Policing communication adviser | Leads on stakeholder communications and the delivery of communications plans across the policing and organised crime agenda. |
| Corporate communication adviser | Leads on e-comms and branding across the groups internal communications; supports delivery of CPGs corporate business plan and internal engagement activities |

*Table 2. Communication staff in the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism*

| *Job title* | *Job specification* |
|---|---|
| Senior communications adviser | Assist in the planning and co-ordination of communications work across OSCT |
| Communications manager | Supporting the public consultation on communications data and Interception Modernisation Programme |
| Stakeholder engagement coordinator | Organising stakeholder engagement events for the programme |
| Communications officer | Lead implementation of a stakeholder engagement plan to support legislation to deliver Interception Modernisation Programme |
| Internal communications | Manage involvement at key exhibitions and conferences highlighting the role and work of Olympic Security Directorate within the Olympic family and ensuring an appropriate understanding of the programme and plans among key delivery partners and industry |
| Internal communications adviser | Managing the delivery of internal communications within OSCT, utilising the full range of channels |

## Departmental Meetings

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* individuals other than ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301168]

**Mr. Woolas:** In their response to a Report by the Public Administration Select Committee Lobbying: Access and influence in Whitehall, the Government agreed to publish online, on a quarterly basis, information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups. Information for the period 1 October to 31 December 2009 will be published by Departments as soon as the information is ready.

## Departmental Official Cars

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301176]

**Mr. Woolas:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement about the cost of ministerial cars made by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark), on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 79-80WS.

For the cost of cars to officials, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark) on 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 762W.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to his Department was of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302970]

**Mr. Woolas:** Although the costs of providing accommodation to press offices and special advisers is not separately attributed in our accounts, for two Marsham street the estimated outturn figure for financial year 2008-09 was in the order of £450,000.

## Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305519]

**Alan Johnson:** Information relating to costs to the Department on *(a)* ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Security

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303944]

**Mr. Woolas:** It is not possible to provide detailed figures for security passes issued by the Home Office to contractors providing consultancy services over the past 12 months for the following reasons:

> The security pass database is regularly refreshed and details of expired passes issued are not retained.
>
> Application forms and pass records for contractors passes do not differentiate between the type of contractor and it is not therefore possible to distinguish from records which of those contractors were providing consultancy services and those that were delivering non-consultancy services (e.g. catering).

## Departmental Taxis

**Ian Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred against each such contract in each of the last three years. [300829]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Home Department held a contract with Black Cabs/Radio Taxi/A2B Radio Cars/Matrix which expired in November 2008. The Department currently has an agreement with the Government Car and Despatch Agency's Green Car service for the provision of cars and drivers. Available expenditure data are as follows:

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| | *Taxi company* | |
| *Financial year* | *Black Cabs/Radio Taxi/A2B Radio Cars/Matrix* | *GCDA's Green Cars* |
| 2007-08 | 257,000 | [1]— |
| 2008-09 | 259,000 | 115,000 |
| 2009 (April to September) | [2]— | 191,000 |

[1] Only available at disproportionate cost.

[2] Contract expired.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305206]

**Mr. Woolas:** A number of Home Office business areas operate directly, fund or contribute to the running of telephone lines using 0870, 0845 and 0800 numbers via third sector partners and external groups.

Details of the operation of these telephone lines are not kept centrally. It is therefore not possible to provide information requested about the number of calls received in the last 12 months.

A breakdown of telephone lines is as follows:

*Home Office headquarters*

Home Office headquarters does not operate any telephone lines directly.

*Identity and Passport Service*

There are currently five Identity and Passport Service (IPS) telephone lines which all use 0300 numbers.

*UK Border Agency*

The UK Border Agency has a total of 12 telephone lines, six of which operate on 0870, 0845 or 0800 and the remaining six operate on local or 0300 numbers.

*Criminal Records Bureau*

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has six telephone lines which use 0870 numbers.

The Home Office has undergone an exercise to rationalise its telephone line numbers. Many of its current telephone lines use the 03 prefix where the cost of the call, including those made from a mobile phone, is the same as a standard landline with an 01 or 02 code but not linked to a specific geographic area.

Until January 2009, all calls to 0845 numbers were charged at the local rate by all providers. BT announced that calls from BT lines to these numbers are now free. Ofcom has also ruled that from one August 2009 the cost of 0870 must be the same as an 0300 call.

### Departmental Training

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location and *(c)* cost was of each of the last four away days held by his Department's Departmental Board. [305464]

**Meg Hillier:** The date, location and cost of the last four Home Office Board away days are listed in the following table.

| | *Location* | *Total cost[1] (£)* | *Number of attendees* | *Cost per head (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20th November 2009 | St. Stephen's Club, Queen Anne's Gate, London | 1,747.94 | 16 | 109.25 |
| 11 September 2009 | Institute for Government | 920 | 17 | 54.12 |
| 15 May 2009 | Broadway House, Tothill Street, London | 1,987.72 | 14 | 141.98 |
| 27 March 2009 | Bramshill Police Training Centre, Surrey[2] | [3]3,409.31 | 13 | 262.25 |

[1] Costs include hire of room, facilities and refreshments throughout the day.

[2] Bramshill Police Training Centre is owned and operated by National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) which is funded by the Home Office. Therefore, this figure represents the internal cross-charging for the use of our own facilities.

[3] This away day included an overnight stay for all attendees.

### Deportation

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse has been of legal proceedings relating to the deportation of foreign nationals in each year since 1997. [305466]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is not centrally collated and could be obtained only by examination of individual case files which would incur a disproportionate cost.

The type of legal costs incurred by the UK Border Agency in pursuing the deportation of foreign national offenders are those associated with judicial reviews, private law claims and the cost of defending deportation decisions before the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal and the High Court.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 474W, on deportation, from what budget the cost of legal proceedings relating to the deportation of foreign nationals on grounds of national security are met; and how much such proceedings have cost in each year since 1997. [305479]

**Mr. Woolas:** The cost of the legal proceedings relating to the deportation of foreign nationals on grounds of national security are met from either the Special Cases Directorate of the UK Border Agency or from the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism based in the Home Office (or from another directorate of UK Border Agency which may have an interest).

With regard to the cost of proceedings in each year since 1997, the information requested is not centrally collated and could be obtained only by examination of individual case files which would incur a disproportionate cost.

The type of legal costs incurred by the UK Border Agency in pursuing the deportation of foreign national offenders are those associated with judicial reviews, private law claims and the cost of defending deportation decisions before the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal and the High Court.

### Entry Clearances: Iran

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas were issued to Iranian nationals by posts in *(a)* Dubai and *(b)* Tehran in each of the last 10 years. [304654]

**Mr. Woolas:** The number of visas issued to Iranian nationals in *(a)* Dubai and *(b)* Tehran in each year since 2004 is shown in the following table. UKBA does not hold data prior to 2004.

| *Report year* | *Nationality* | *Post Name* | *Issued* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | Iran | Dubai (BE) | 1,285 |
| 2004 | Iran | Tehran (BE) | 27,702 |
| 2005 | Iran | Dubai (BE) | 1,334 |
| 2005 | Iran | Tehran (BE) | 28,302 |
| 2006 | Iran | Dubai (BE) | 1,465 |
| 2006 | Iran | Tehran (BE) | 35,405 |
| 2007 | Iran | Dubai (BE) | 1,324 |
| 2007 | Iran | Tehran (BE) | 31,496 |
| 2008 | Iran | Dubai (BE) | 1,248 |
| 2008 | Iran | Tehran (BE) | 27,597 |
| 2009 | Iran | Dubai (BE) | 524 |
| 2009 | Iran | Tehran (BE) | 15,710 |

*Source:*

CRS 7 December 2009.

These data are based on management information. It is provisional and subject to change.

## Entry Clearances: Pakistan

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many applicants resident in Pakistan who were granted entry clearance to the UK following an appeal have been waiting for over two months for a visa to be issued. [304957]

(2) what the longest period has been for which a visa applicant in Pakistan has waited for a visa to be issued following a decision on appeal in the last three months. [304958]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

UKBA staff aim to process allowed appeals within eight weeks of receiving notification of the appeal outcome. There have, however, been delays in processing allowed appeals in Pakistan in recent months. UKBA sent additional staff to Pakistan in September. They have now contacted almost all successful applicants to process their visas.

## Entry Clearances: Republic of Ireland

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with their counterparts in the Irish Republic on the implications for the UK of the varying visa requirements of the UK and Irish jurisdictions in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [304490]

**Mr. Woolas:** We have been working closely with the Government of the Republic of Ireland to strengthen the common travel area (CTA) for a significant period of time and remain committed to building on that relationship in the future.

No discussions have taken place between Ministers on the differing visa regimes of the UK and the Republic of Ireland. However, officials regularly meet through the bilateral Immigration and Counter Terrorism Group. This allows the two governments to explore and mitigate abuse of the immigration and asylum systems within the CTA. These meetings include discussions on the visa requirements.

We continue to work in partnership with the Republic of Ireland to explore ways of aligning our respective visa regimes and further increase cooperation in the field of visa regimes in the future.

## Entry Clearances: Skilled Workers

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* people have been granted post-study entry into Tier One of the points based system in each quarter for which information is available and *(b)* new arrivals have been granted visas under (i) the Highly Skilled Migrants Programme and (ii) Tier One in each quarter since the inception of the former. [302856]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* In answer to part *(a)* of the question, please see Table 1:

*Table 1: Main applicants: Leave to remain and entry clearance tier one post study applications approved by quarter*

| *Year/quarter* | *Granted applications* |
|---|---|
| *2008* | |
| Quarter 1 | — |
| Quarter 2 | — |
| Quarter 3 | 5,995 |
| Quarter 4 | 14,780 |
| *2009* | |
| Quarter 1 | 12,545 |
| Quarter 2 | 7,990 |
| Quarter 3 | 8,010 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures rounded to the nearest five (— = 0).
2. Tier one post study leave to remain route began 30 June 2008.
3. Tier one post study entry clearance route began 30 June 2008.

*Table 2: Main applicants: Leave to remain and entry clearance HSMP applications approved by quarter*

| *Year/quarter* | *Granted applications* |
|---|---|
| 2008 | |
| Quarter 1 | 6,005 |
| Quarter 2 | 6,870 |
| Quarter 3 | 4,845 |
| Quarter 4 | 2,125 |
| *2009* | |
| Quarter 1 | 315 |
| Quarter 2 | 160 |
| Quarter 3 | 65 |

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest five (— = 0).
2. Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP).
3. The highly skilled migrant leave to remain route closed 28 February 2008.
4. The highly skilled migrant entry clearance route closed 31 March 2008.
5. Figures include review application grants.

In answer to part *(b)* (ii) of the question, please see Table 3:

*Table 3: Leave to remain and entry clearance tier one applications approved by quarter*

| *Year/quarter* | *Granted applications* |
|---|---|
| *2008* | |
| Quarter 1 | 280 |
| Quarter 2 | 4,850 |

*Table 3: Leave to remain and entry clearance tier one applications approved by quarter*

| *Year/quarter* | *Granted applications* |
|---|---|
| Quarter 3 | 17,850 |
| Quarter 4 | 28,350 |
| *2009* | |
| Quarter 1 | 26,470 |
| Quarter 2 | 22,105 |
| Quarter 3 | 16,565 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures rounded to the nearest five (— = 0).
2. Figures include all tier one routes (including tier one post study).
3. Tier one leave to remain route began 29 February 2008.
4. Tier one entry clearance route initiated 1 April 2008.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. The figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

### Foreign Workers

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effects of migrants in meeting the skills requirements of the economy; [300490]

(2) what research his Department has undertaken on the contribution of migrants to reducing skills deficits in the UK. [301399]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) is commissioned by the Government to recommend shortage occupation lists for the UK and Scotland. Recommended lists were published in September 2008, April 2009 and October 2009. The next update is scheduled for spring 2010. In its reviews the MAC considers the contribution migration makes to filling skilled labour shortages and meeting the skills needs of the economy.

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many economic migrants of each profession came to the UK from each country in South America, Central America and Europe in each year since 2006. [305768]

**Mr. Woolas:** Information on the profession of migrants entering the United Kingdom is not available.

However, statistics on passengers entering the United Kingdom by purpose of journey and country of nationality are published annually in the Home Office publications "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom" which are available from the library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The statistics can be found in supplementary table 1a in the 2008 edition and in table 2.3 in the 2006 and 2007 editions.

### Fraud: Internet

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the incidence of internet fraud. [305102]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Government are determined to tackle the problem of fraud, and it has signalled its commitment to tackling fraud with the allocation of £29 million in new money over three years to implement the National Fraud Programme. The National Fraud Authority (NFA) published the first National Fraud Strategy in March and will drive forward a comprehensive strategy for tackling fraud, bringing together the Government, criminal justice practitioners, business and the public. The funding also enabled the establishment of a National Fraud Reporting Centre (NFRC) which will provide a reporting mechanism for individuals and small businesses to report fraud where no other law enforcement or regulatory reporting mechanism exists. The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), which is linked to the NFRC, will develop intelligence from these reports, and pass it to law enforcement agencies. The intelligence gathered will also help form the basis of better prevention advice and alerts to fraud threats for business and the public.

In addition to the funding for the National Fraud Programme the Government are providing £3.5 million over three years to create the Police Central e-crime Unit (PCeU).

This will provide support to the Police Service in developing a structured response to online crime, and its initial focus will be on the area of fraud-related electronic crime, working with the NFRC to develop a response to reports on such matters.

### Human Trafficking

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group has met since the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. [306508]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* It has met once since the convention came into force on one April 2009.

### Immigration

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of applications for a residence card as the spouse of an EEA national had been decided within six months on the latest date for which figures are available on his Department's website. [303650]

**Mr. Woolas:** This information is not available as the UK Border Agency's Case information database records all family members of EEA nationals who apply for residence cards in one category (EEA2).

### Immigration: Children

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children aged *(a)* 17 years, *(b)* between 12 and 16 years, *(c)* between five and 11 years and *(d)* under five years who have been detained under immigration rules have (i) absconded and (ii) attempted to abscond from detention in each of the last 12 years. [302958]

**Alan Johnson:** There has been one escape by a minor aged 14 years of age from Oakington Immigration Removal Centre in 2004.

### Internet

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 489W, on the internet, if he will issue guidance on the application of the *(a)* Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 and *(b)* Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to trials of the CView Deep Packet Inspection technology developed by Detica. [306650]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: I have no plans to issue guidance in respect of deep packet inspection generally or specifically in respect of the use of a particular product. It is for the users of such equipment to ensure that the way in which it is used is in accordance with the law as set out in the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 or any other relevant legislation.

### Internet: Advertising

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to regulate online advertising. [306326]

**Mr. Simon:** I have been asked to reply.

All advertising in paid for space in the UK, including online advertising, is strictly controlled through a system of co-regulation and self-regulation, which is administered by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). This regulatory system is independent of Government and is ultimately responsible for setting the standards for all advertising.

The bodies responsible for writing and maintaining the advertising codes, the Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP) and the Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice (BCAP), are currently finalising a full review of all the advertising codes to ensure they remain up-to-date.

In addition to this work, the industry has also been considering the extent of new media regulation, particularly in the light of the recommendations set out in the Byron Review—"Safer Children in a Digital World". The review recommended industry take steps to 'future proof' the current system for advertising regulation, taking account of new forms of online advertising outside the remit of the existing regulatory system.

It is anticipated that the new advertising codes and the industry's proposals to extend the scope of regulation to areas of new media marketing, will be published in the first quarter of 2010.

### National Policing Improvement Agency: Public Relations

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the National Policing Improvement Agency has spent on advertising and marketing in each of the last five years. [306358]

**Alan Johnson:** The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) was established on 1 April 2007. The expenditure of the NPIA Marketing team for the past two years was:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 1,399,000 |
| 2008-09 | 1,074,000 |
| 2009-10 (forecasted outturn) | 1,071,000 |

### Passports

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports have been issued in each of the last two years. [305295]

**Meg Hillier:** The following table shows how many passports were issued in each of the last two financial years.

| *Financial year* | *Passports issued* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 5,683,416 |
| 2008-09 | 5,225,115 |

### Repatriation

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been paid under the Facilitated Returns Scheme in each year since its inception. [303326]

**Mr. Woolas:** The chief executive of the UK Border Agency will provide this information to the Home Affairs Committee when she writes in January 2010 as the information is not yet available.

### Serious Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many officers from regional crime squads have been transferred to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in each of the last three years; [306392]

(2) how many officers of the Serious Organised Crime Agency were attached to regional crime squads on 1 December 2009. [306393]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Regional Crime Squads ceased to exist in 1998, when the Police Act 1997 amalgamated them to form the National Crime Squad. As a result of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, the National Crime Squad (NCS) and its service authority ceased to exist. 1,875 NCS staff (including 1,070 former police officers) transferred into the Serious Organised Crime Agency on 1 April 2006.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many warranted officers of the Serious Organised Crime Agency were based *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas on 1 December 2009. [306626]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Officers in the Serious Organised Crime Agency are not designated as warranted. They are designated as having the powers of a police officer, an immigration officer or the customs powers of revenue and customs. As of 1 December 2009, 1,570 SOCA officers were designated with these powers; 88 of these officers are based overseas.

### Sexual Offences

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effect on victims of a serious sexual offence of the decision not to introduce national indicator 26, specialist support to victims of a serious sexual offence. [301708]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** National Indicator (NI) 26 was deferred in 2009-10 to allow time for more development work on the indicator's definition and measurement processes.

During this deferred period, NI26 is being piloted in the three areas in the South West that had included NI 26 in their LAA (Bristol, Cornwall and Plymouth). A fourth area, Thurrock in Essex, had adopted this indicator as a local target and is also included in the pilot scheme.

The significance of including this indicator in the National Indicator Set (NIS) was to highlight the issue of sexual violence, and the need to provide support services, as an important local issue. We are continuing to work towards achieving this through our commitment in the recently published Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy to develop a comprehensive National Indicator relevant to all VAWG and to mainstream VAWG into other relevant national indicators where possible, while working to encourage more Local Strategic Partnerships to prioritise the issue.

### Shoplifting

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were reported to police on suspicion of shoplifting offences in *(a)* each division in Cambridgeshire and *(b)* England in each of the last 10 years. [306353]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The available data relate to shoplifting offences recorded by the police in England and in each Basic Command Unit (BCU) in Cambridgeshire.

Shoplifting data at BCU level are only available from 2000-01.

*Table 1: Offences of shoplifting recorded by the police—1999-2000 to 2001-02*

| | | *Cambridgeshire Basic Command Unit* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | *Central* | *Northern* | *Southern* |
| 1999-2000 | 278,243 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2000-01 | 279,198 | 903 | 1,605 | 1,236 |
| 2001-02 | 291,689 | 940 | 1,758 | 1,326 |

n/a - Not available.

*Table 2: Offences of shoplifting recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2008-09*[1]

| | | *Cambridgeshire Basic Command Unit* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | *Central* | *Northern* | *Southern* |
| 2002-03 | 294,062 | 1,053 | 1,643 | 1,724 |
| 2003-04 | 286,440 | 1,059 | 1,505 | 1,601 |
| 2004-05 | 265,789 | 842 | 1,511 | 1,277 |
| 2005-06 | 279,908 | 807 | 1,582 | 1,371 |
| 2006-07[2] | 278,241 | 960 | 1,378 | 1,507 |
| 2007-08 | 274,146 | 909 | 1,462 | 1,569 |
| 2008-09 | 302,499 | 1,112 | 1,840 | 1,766 |

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in 2002-03 and data before and after that date are not directly comparable.

[2] Cambridgeshire BCUs revised in 2006-07.

### UK Border Agency

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which 50 parliamentary constituencies, listed from highest to lowest, the UK Border Agency received the highest number of enquiries regarding *(a)* legacy migration cases, *(b)* non-legacy migration cases and *(c)* out-of-country visa applications in each of the last four years. [300997]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is not available in the format required and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* outturn of the UK Border Agency was in respect of IT in 2008-09. [301242]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The resource and capital budgets for IT for UK Border Agency for the FY 2008-09 was £260 million including projects and programmes.

*(b)* The resource and capital outturn for IT for UK Border Agency for the FY 2008-09 was £227 million including projects and programmes.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency *(a)* budgeted for and *(b)* spent on information technology in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [303823]

**Mr. Woolas:** I am unable to provide the figures for the calendar years 2008 and 2009 as the accounts operate on a fiscal financial year basis.

### Victim Support Schemes: Sexual Offences

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the outcomes of the pilot of national indicator 26, Specialist support to victims of a serious sexual offence. [301804]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** A pilot of National Indicator 26 commenced in April 2009. Once we have made an assessment of the outcomes of the pilot, during 2010-11, this information will inform the refresh of the National Indicator Set for the next local area agreement period.

### West Yorkshire Police

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were employed in *(a)* armed response units and *(b)* specialist firearms officers teams in West Yorkshire regional police forces in each year since 1997. [306928]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information is as follows.

*(a)* While both data on the number of officers whose primary function is listed as "response" and the number authorised to use firearms is collected centrally, data on armed response units specifically are not collected centrally.

*(b)* The number of officers whose primary function is listed as "firearms—tactical" is restricted from the public domain following consultation with Association of Chief Police Officers. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2005, information can be withheld where disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

### Work Permits

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work visas have been issued to recipients with each level of qualification in each of the last five years. [305247]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of *(a)* UK and *(b)* global carbon dioxide emissions were attributable to (i) aircraft, (ii) ships and (iii) cars in the latest period for which figures are available. [306921]

**Joan Ruddock:** Estimates of UK greenhouse gas emissions for 2007 were published on 3 February 2009.

The proportion of UK carbon dioxide emissions arising from (i) domestic aviation, (ii) shipping and (iii) cars in each of the last 10 years, are shown in the following table. These percentages are calculated on an 'End User' basis.

*Contribution of specified transport categories towards total emissions of carbon dioxide, 1998-2007, by end-user*

| Gas/Sector | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | Percentage 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a) Carbon dioxide* | | | | | | | | | | |
| (i) Domestic aviation | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| (ii) Shipping | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| (iii) Cars | 16.0 | 16.6 | 16.3 | 16.0 | 16.9 | 16.2 | 16.1 | 16.1 | 15.7 | 15.9 |

Estimates of global carbon dioxide emissions arising from (i) domestic aviation, and (ii) shipping for the year 2005. No global $CO_2$ data are available for cars.

*Contribution of global carbon dioxide emissions for specified transport categories, 2005, by source*

| Gas/Sector | Percentage 2005 |
|---|---|
| *(a) Carbon dioxide* | |
| (i) International aviation | 1 |
| (ii) International shipping | 2 |
| (iii) Cars | [1] |

[1] No data available.

### Climate Change: Publicity

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many visitors have visited the Act on CO2 website. [304034]

**Joan Ruddock:** From 17 September 2008 to 3 December 2009 there have been 1,106,253 unique visitors to the ACT ON $CO_2$ website.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many external consultants work for his Department. [303229]

**Joan Ruddock:** DECC currently has 135 external consultants.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff of his Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306709]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change was created on 3 October 2008. There were no staff in the redeployment pool in January, April or July 2009. On 1 October 2009, there were five individuals on DECC's re-deployment register.

### Driving

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which his Department is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302174]

**Joan Ruddock:** DECC's own policies for travel and use of vehicles are currently still under development. In the interim, DECC staff refer to legacy policies from their 'parent' Departments, BIS and DEFRA. DECC does not own a fleet of vehicles for use by staff but staff may continue to be covered by arrangements from 'parent' Departments. A summary of these are outlined as follows.

*Procedure for BIS staff*

(a) BIS lease vehicles: BIS has access fo a small number of vehicles (approx. five) which can be leased by staff from contracted providers. Procedures followed by staff and their managers (e.g. on driving licences, insurance etc.) comply with requirements from the individual contracted provider.

(b) Own car for business use/car hire: It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that they have a current licence which covers the car being driven and adequate insurance to provide cover for business use. Before using their own vehicle for business use, staff must obtain prior approval from their line manager. For staff using hire cars for departmental business, line managers must ensure that the driver:

has no more than six penalty points on their driving licence;

has not been disqualified from driving in the last three years;

has had no more than two 'at fault' accidents in the last 12 months;

Line managers should examine at least annually the driving licences of all staff that drive Department provided hired cars.

The guidance also reminds staff to ensure that they follow all advice, guidance and legislation relating to road safety—and that they will have to pay any fines incurred as a result of any driving offence (e.g. speeding, parking, failure to pay congestion charge).

*Procedure for DEFRA staff*

(a) DEFRA 'pool' of vehicles: to use a vehicle from the DEFRA pool, staff must obtain a valid driving permit. This can be obtained by faxing a copy of a current driving licence, which must be counter signed by their line manager, to the regional official vehicle manager.

(b) Own car for business use/car hire: Staff may only consider the use of a private vehicle if the journey is under 85 miles (unless a director signs off the use of a private vehicle and produces a business case). Staff are responsible for ensuring adequate insurance cover is held and no specific check of driving licences is made. For car hire, drivers must be 21 or over and have held a full licence for at least 12 months. Driving licences must not contain any endorsements for theft of vehicle or taking without consent. Line managers must ensure that drivers are eligible to drive by checking the driving licence before the first hire and thereafter on a six monthly basis. Drivers are also required to show their licence to the hire firm representative when the vehicle is delivered.

DEFRA also promotes safe driving by publishing Eco driving techniques on the intranet. Eco driving techniques have been shown to reduce collisions and driver stress.

Staff driving hire vehicles are required to report any accident as soon as they are able to the vehicle supplier. BIS staff are required to also report the accident to their line manager and the travel and subsistence policy unit. DEFRA staff also report the accident to the travel policy unit and the departmental health and safety unit. Road traffic accidents involving the individual's vehicle are not reportable under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995).

## Electricity

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the comparative average costs are of transmitting electricity to London from *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Northern Ireland. [305737]

**Mr. Kidney:** In 2008 the average cost per megawatt hour of transmitting electricity to London was £3.33 from Scotland, £5.48 from Northern Ireland.

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the merits of changes to the transmission charging methodology in order to vary charges according to the load factors of a plant. [305738]

**Mr. Kidney:** National Grid are currently exploring the merits of the inclusion of load factors and other information in calculating transmission charges and if so how such a model could be implemented.

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the merits of introducing incentives for pumped electricity storage in Scotland. [305739]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department has made no assessment of the merits of introducing incentives for pumped storage electricity storage in Scotland.

## Energy Efficiency Schemes

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he made of the number of households likely to receive assistance under his Department's energy efficiency schemes at the commencement of each such scheme. [307273]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT is a market mechanism and suppliers are free to meet it through various approved measures. The numbers of households benefiting will therefore depend on both supplier actions, supply chain constraints, consumer demand and a range of other variables. Ofgem track supplier performance against targets, and report CERT delivery on a quarterly basis; their latest report shows that over 1.5 million insulation measures and 170 million high efficiency lights have been delivered in the period April 2008-June 2009.

Figures for the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) only commenced in September 2009. It is estimated that 90,000 households will benefit.

The total number assisted by the Warm Front scheme since its inception in June 2000 is, 2.1 million households.

## Energy Supply

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps the Government are taking to encourage energy suppliers to assist their customers in avoiding arrears. [304496]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Government are keen to see that suppliers take a fair approach to debt management. Ofgem already publishes guidelines that set minimum standards for suppliers on debt and disconnection issues, including avoiding arrears.

Ofgem and Consumer Focus are currently carrying out a joint review looking at these issues. The review report will be published in the New Year.

## Fuel Poverty: Pensioners

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the susceptibility to fuel poverty of pensioners in sheltered housing accommodation. [305990]

**Mr. Kidney:** Fuel poverty is not measured for pensioners living in sheltered accommodation. To assess the susceptibility to fuel poverty of pensioners in sheltered housing would be particularly difficult. Firstly, the English Housing Survey, used as the main source for the fuel poverty calculation, is a survey of domestic households and does not cover most forms of sheltered housing. In addition, the concept of fuel poverty, defined as needing to spend more than 10 per cent. of income on energy to achieve the "adequate standard of warmth" would be difficult to interpret for those living in such shared accommodation, because rent, or residential fees, typically cover all forms of utilities as part of the sheltered accommodation.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) pursuant to the answer of 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 819-20W, on fuel poverty: pensioners, what proportion of pensioner households in each local authority area were in fuel poverty *(a)* in 2003 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information if available; [307603]

(2) what proportion of pensioner households in each parliamentary constituency were in fuel poverty *(a)* in 2003 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information if available. [307604]

**Mr. Kidney:** Modelled levels of fuel poverty at sub regional level are not split by age group or any other form of demographic.

### Gilmerton Core Store

**Nigel Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what date in 2005 ownership of the Gilmerton Core Store was transferred from the Department of Trade and Industry to his Department. [305809]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* There has been no change of ownership. The Gilmerton Core Store freehold continues to be under the ownership of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

### Innovation Investment Fund and Carbon Trust's Venture Capital Scheme

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the statement of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 359-71, on the Pre-Budget Report, what criteria apply in respect of eligibility for financial support from the *(a)* Innovation Investment Fund and *(b)* Carbon Trust's Venture Capital Scheme; and for what time period these schemes will remain open to applications. [307625]

**Joan Ruddock:** The UK Innovation Investment Fund will operate on a Fund of Funds structure which means it will not invest directly in companies, but rather invest in a small number of specialist technology funds that have the expertise and track record to invest directly in companies. Investments in individual companies will ultimately be a commercial decision for the underlying fund manager based solely on the quality of the investment opportunity and the fund's investment strategy. First closing is expected to be in January 2010 with final closing following in 12 to 18 months. However, the funds invested in are likely to continue to invest in individual companies over a number of years.

The Carbon Trust (CT) have informed me that all investment proposals for the CT Venture Capital Scheme must clearly demonstrate how the investment will lead to material $CO_2$ emissions savings while also generating a commercial return. In addition, applicants should address the following:

Financial Position—The business plan must be accompanied by a financial outline that allows for a detailed appraisal of the organisation's economic viability.

Management Experience—Teams should demonstrate any relevant sector experience combined with the ambition to turn their business plans into reality.

Market Assessment—The business plan should detail what the key commercial market is and the critical market drivers.

Competitive Advantage—The business proposition should demonstrate a clear competitive advantage with respect to a specific need or market demand.

Other Funding—As Carbon Trust investments will only invest up to 50 per cent. in any one transaction, other private investors must be identified.

Technical and Innovation Evidence—The business plan will need to demonstrate innovation either through a step-change in technology design or in the application of a technology process.

Confirmation of Intellectual Property Protection—What intellectual property rights (IPR) already exist prior to the investment, and how any IPR arising during the investment will be protected and exploited.

All investments need to be UK-based.

The Carbon Trust fund remains open for the foreseeable future.

### Nuclear Power

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department issued a notice to tender for the contract to prepare an appraisal of sustainability of the draft nuclear national policy statement; which companies made bids; by what criteria contractors were selected; what the total monetary value of the contracts was; and what assessment he made of the expertise of the contractors selected. [305329]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department issued an invitation to tender on 21 August 2008 through the Office for Government Commerce.

Four companies bid for the contract—Drivers Jonas LLP, MWH UK Ltd. (with Enfusion Ltd.), Serco and URS Corporation. The companies who bid also indicated that they could draw upon the expertise of other organisations if required. The contractors were selected against criteria of value for money, and relevant experience and expertise in environmental and sustainability assessment, including strategic environmental assessment.

The Department has paid approximately £740,000 for work relating to the appraisal of sustainability. This includes:

Appraisal of sustainability main report;

11 appraisal of sustainability site reports—one for each nominated site;

Three additional appraisal of sustainability site reports—one for each site identified by the alternative sites study;

Ancillary documents such as technical appendices.

An environmental policy official was involved in the interview process and the selected contractor was judged to have the necessary expertise to prepare the appraisal of sustainability.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Oldbury

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what additional infrastructure will be required to connect the proposed new nuclear power station at Oldbury to the National Grid; where it will connect to the National Grid; and if he will make a statement. [306662]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* The connection of individual power stations to the electricity transmission system is a matter for the relevant developer and National Grid in its role as system operator for the GB transmission system. Contractual connection agreements between the relevant developer and National Grid will establish, amongst other things, what infrastructure is required and what the potential routes for that infrastructure might be.

### Opinion Leader Research

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has paid to Opinion Leader Research since its establishment. [305237]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change has not paid anything to Opinion Leader Research since its establishment.

### Power Failures

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Ofgem, *(b)* EDF Energy and *(c)* the Energy Ombudsman on the power cuts at Dartford Creek cable bridge on 20 July 2009. [306560]

**Mr. Kidney:** In October 2009 officials from the Department discussed the progress of their Interruption Incentive Scheme Audit with Ofgem and had further discussions with EDF Energy on the incident, recovery and follow up. No discussions have taken place with the energy ombudsman regarding this incident.

### Renewable Energy

**Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to offer to other renewable technology projects the same grandfathering principles it is proposed to apply to offshore wind projects. [307614]

**Mr. Kidney:** Support under the Renewables Obligation is grandfathered at point of accreditation for all technologies except biomass.

The "Government Response to the Statutory Consultation on the Renewables Obligation Order 2009", published in December 2008 set out our decision not to grandfather existing biomass and waste plants following evidence from the biomass industry:

> "that grandfathering existing stations at 1 ROC/MWh while banding up new stations would be detrimental to a competitive market for the fuel stock."

We are currently carrying out work with the Renewables Advisory Board, the Renewable Energy Association and biomass stakeholders to assess whether moves in biomass fuel prices might warrant such action at the next banding review starting October 2010.

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the statement of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 359-71, on Pre-Budget Report how many households he expects to install *(a)* micro wind turbines and *(b)* solar panels. [307623]

**Mr. Kidney:** Based on the tariffs proposed in the Renewable Electricity Financial Incentives Consultation, our modelling suggests that by 2020 there will be approximately 20,000 small scale domestic wind turbines and 800,000 domestic scale solar photo voltaic (PV) installations.

These projections are based on modelling which relies on a number of assumptions which in reality will be uncertain. Therefore actual installation numbers may differ from projected installation numbers.

### Renewable Energy: EU Law

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on ensuring that the transmission charging methodology in the UK is in line with the EU Renewables Directive. [305735]

**Mr. Kidney:** My officials recently responded to a European Commission request for a paper explaining how the transmission charging methodology in the UK is compliant with the renewables directive. Officials also attended a hearing at the European Parliament on 1 December at which the Commission was represented. The Commission agreed with our conclusion that the methodology is compliant with the directive.

### Sellafield

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 490W, on Sellafield, if he will place in the Library a copy of the report from Sellafield Ltd regarding the contamination event which took place on 20 June 2008. [303510]

**Mr. Kidney:** Yes. The report is Sellafield Ltd's own document and certain information is being withheld at the company's request to ensure site security, and to protect personal identities and commercial interests.

### Wind Power

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Vattenfall, *(b)* London Array Ltd. and *(c)* the Port of Ramsgate on the suitability of the local workforce for maintenance and support operations for Thanet Offshore and the London Array windfarms. [305097]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department has not had any discussions with *(a)* Vattenfall *(b)* London Array Ltd. or *(c)* the Port of Ramsgate regarding the suitability of the local workforce for maintenance and support operations for the Thanet and the London Array offshore wind farms as this is a matter for the market.

The Government are supporting the development of the appropriate skills on a nationwide basis through the Sector Skills Councils and through providing support for the National Skills Academy for Power. We are also working with the British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) to develop a skills strategy for the sector. As part of this, the BWEA is developing a programme of apprentice training for the start of the next academic year which will provide training for a new generation of turbine technicians.

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the potential employment opportunities represented by the maintenance and operation of Thanet Offshore and the London Array windfarms when completed; and what steps he has taken to put in place training arrangements for the local community to provide skills relevant to employment in windfarms. [305098]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department has not made any assessment of the potential employment opportunities represented by the maintenance and operation of the Thanet and London Array offshore wind farms when completed.

We have not put in place training for the local community to provide skills relevant to employment in wind farms as this is a matter for the market. I refer my hon. Friend to my answer today to parliamentary question number 305097 in respect of action that the Government are taking to support the development of these skills on a nationwide basis.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Charity Commission: Conferences

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Charity Commission's buildings attended by civil servants in the Charity Commission there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307465]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the commission to reply.

*Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 14 December 2009:*

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on how many (a) away days and (b) conferences that took place outside the Charity Commission's buildings attended by civil servants in the Charity Commission there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each (307465).

Our expenditure on conferences and away days for each financial year is set out below:

£

| | *Conferences* | *Away days* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 88,681 | 27,639 |
| 2006-07 | 45,930 | 38,465 |
| 2007-08 | 55,247 | 47,387 |
| 2008-09 | 118,328 | 78,562 |

A proportion of expenditure on conferences is spent on our staff attending external conferences for professional development purposes. It is important to note that the conferences hosted by the Commission are attended by charity sector representatives to enhance the quality of governance across the charity sector. We do not have access to detailed data on attendance.

Generally, away days are attended by Charity Commission staff for training and strategic development purposes, with the occasional guest speaker who may be a civil servant. We do not hold data on the number of events held each year because these often occur at a divisional team level and budgetary control is exercised on the cost, not the volume of occurrence.

I hope this is helpful.

### Charity Commission: Operating Costs

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost of running the Charities Commission was *(a)* in the 12 months before the introduction of the Charities Act 2006 and *(b)* in the last 12 months; and what the projected costs to the Commission of implementing and enforcing compliance with the Act will be in the next 12 months. [307437]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

*Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 14 December 2009:*

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on what the cost of running the Charity Commission was (a) in the 12 months before the introduction of the Charities Act 2006 and (b) in the last 12 months; and what the projected costs to the Commission of implementing and enforcing compliance with the Act will be in the next 12 months (307437).

The Charities Act 2006 received Royal Assent on 8 November 2006, although the introduction of many of its provisions has been spread over a series of Commencement Orders between February 2007 and January 2009. Several provisions of the Act have not yet been introduced and the timing and detail of these provisions have yet to be agreed and will go beyond 2010/11.

The Act places a number of statutory objectives on the Commission and our whole budget is, effectively, devoted to meeting these objectives:

(a) The total cost of running the Charity Commission in the year before the Royal Assent was received (2005/06) was £31.6m.

(b) The total cost of running the Charity Commission last year (2008/09) was £31.8m.

(c) The total cost of running the Charity Commission this year (2009/10) is forecast to be £30.9m.

(d) The Charity Commission's funding baseline for 2010/11 is £29.5m.

The overall regulatory nature of the Charity Commission's responsibilities means that it is not possible to differentiate between future costs relating purely to the provisions of the 2006 Act and other more general duties.

I hope this is helpful.

### Death: Dietary Supplements

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths attributable to the use of food supplements were recorded in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [307120]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths attributable to the use of food supplements were recorded in each of the last 10 years. (307120)

The information requested is not available. The accurate reporting of deaths by specific causes depends on the complete recording of all relevant causes of death by medical practitioners and coroners. Medical practitioners are required to complete the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) to the best of their knowledge and belief. Internationally accepted guidance from the World Health Organisation requires only those conditions that contributed directly to death to be recorded. The MCCD is not designed to collect information on possible risk factors or exposures related to the development of disease.

ONS reports on mortality figures by cause using the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). There are no ICD codes for adverse reactions to food supplements.

### Death: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the main causes of death were for *(a)* men and *(b)* women living in Leeds, West constituency in each of the last 10 years. [306991]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the main causes of death were for (a) men and (b) women living in Leeds, West constituency in each of the last 10 years. (306991)

The tables attached identifies the main causes of death for (a) males and (b) females in Leeds, West parliamentary constituency for each of the years 1999 to 2008 (the latest year available).

*Table 1. Main causes of death classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9), males, Leeds West parliamentary constituency, 1999 to 2000[1, 2, 3]*

| | Years when this was a main cause of death for males | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Cause of death* | *1999* | *2000* | *ICD-9 codes* |
| Cerebrovascular diseases | • | • | 430-438 |
| Chronic lower respiratory diseases | • | • | 490-494, 496 |
| Influenza and pneumonia | • | • | 480-487 |
| Ischaemic heart diseases | • | • | 410-414 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of colon, sigmoid, rectum and anus | • | — | 153-154 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of oesophagus | • | — | 150 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of prostate | • | • | 185 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of stomach | • | • | 151 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of trachea, bronchus and lung | • | • | 162 |

[1] Causes of death recorded as the underlying cause in at least 10 male deaths registered in the year in question. These causes accounted for 59 per cent. of all male deaths in Leeds, West parliamentary constituency between 1999 and 2008.

[2] Cause of death in England and Wales is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1999 and 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

*Note:*

The words in brackets have been added for clarity and are not part of the International Classification of Diseases.

*Table 2. Main causes of death classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), males, Leeds, West parliamentary constituency, 2001 to 2008[1, 2, 3]*

| | Years when this was a main cause of death for males | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Cause of death* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *ICD-10 codes* |
| Cerebrovascular diseases | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | I60-I69 |
| Chronic lower respiratory diseases | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | J40-J47 |
| Cirrhosis and other diseases of liver | | | • | • | • | • | • | • | K70-K76 |
| Diabetes | — | • | — | — | — | — | — | — | E10-E14 |
| Diseases of the urinary system | — | • | — | — | — | — | — | — | N00-N39 |
| Heart failure and complications and ill-defined heart disease | — | — | • | — | — | — | — | — | I50-I51 |
| Influenza and pneumonia | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | J10-J18 |
| Ischaemic heart diseases | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | I20-I25 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of colon, sigmoid, rectum and anus | • | • | • | — | • | — | • | • | C18-C21 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of oesophagus | — | — | — | • | — | — | — | — | C15 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of pancreas | — | — | — | • | — | — | — | — | C25 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of prostate | — | • | — | • | • | • | • | — | C61 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of trachea, bronchus and lung | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | C33, C34 |
| Malignant neoplasms (cancer) of lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissue | — | — | — | • | — | — | • | — | C81-C96 |
| Suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent | — | — | • | • | — | • | • | — | X60-X84, Y10-Y34, exc Y33.9 |

[1] Causes of death recorded as the underlying cause in at least 10 male deaths registered in the year in question. These causes accounted for 59 per cent. of all male deaths in Leeds, West parliamentary constituency between 1999 and 2008.

[2] Cause of death in England and Wales is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1999 and 2000, and Tenth Revision (ECD-10) for 2001 onwards.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

*Note:*

The words in brackets have been added for clarity and are not part of the International Classification of Diseases.

*Table 3. Main causes of death classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9), females, Leeds, West parliamentary constituency, 1999 to 2000*[1, 2, 3]

| | *Years when this was a main cause of death for females* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Cause of death* | *1999* | *2000* | *ICD-9 codes* |
| Cerebrovascular diseases | • | • | 430-438 |
| Chronic lower respiratory diseases | • | • | 490-494,496 |
| Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue | • | — | 710-739 |
| Heart failure and complications and ill-defined heart disease | • | — | 428-429 |
| Influenza and pneumonia | • | • | 480-487 |
| Ischaemic heart diseases | • | • | 410-414 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of colon, sigmoid, rectum and anus | • | • | 153-154 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of trachea, bronchus and lung | • | • | 162 |
| Malignant neoplasms (cancer) of breast | • | • | 174-175 |

[1] Causes of death recorded as the underlying cause in at least 10 female deaths registered in the year in question. These causes accounted for 59 per cent. of all female deaths in Leeds, West parliamentary constituency between 1999 and 2008.

[2] Cause of death in England and Wales is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1999 and 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

*Note:*

The words in brackets have been added for clarity and are not part of the International Classification of Diseases.

*Table 4. Main causes of death classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), females, Leeds, West parliamentary constituency, 2001 to 2008*[1, 2, 3]

| | *Years when this was a main cause of death for females* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Cause of death* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *ICD-10 Codes* |
| Aortic aneurysm and dissection | • | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | I71 |
| Cerebrovascular diseases | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | I60-I69 |
| Chronic lower respiratory diseases | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | J40-J47 |
| Dementia and Alzheimer's disease | • | • | — | • | • | • | — | • | F01, F03, G30 |
| Diabetes | — | — | • | — | — | — | — | — | E10-E14 |
| Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue | • | • | — | — | — | — | — | — | M00-M99 |
| Diseases of the urinary system | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | • | N00-N39 |
| Heart failure and complications and ill-defined heart disease | • | • | • | — | — | — | • | — | I50-I51 |
| Influenza and pneumonia | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | J10-J18 |
| Ischaemic heart diseases | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | I20-I25 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of colon, sigmoid, rectum and anus | • | — | — | • | • | — | • | • | C18-C21 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of trachea, bronchus and lung | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | C33, C34 |
| Malignant neoplasms (cancer) of breast | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | C50 |

[1] Causes of death recorded as the underlying cause in at least 10 female deaths registered in the year in question. These causes accounted for 59 per cent. of all female deaths in Leeds, West parliamentary constituency between 1999 and 2008.

[2] Cause of death in England and Wales is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1999 and 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

*Note:*

The words in brackets have been added for clarity and are not part of the International Classification of Diseases.

## Death: Pressure Sores

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many death certificates included the words pressure sores in each of the last two years. [307727]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many death certificates included the words 'pressure sores' in each of the last two years. (307727)

The number of deaths where pressure ulcer was mentioned on the death certificate, in England and Wales, was 1045 in 2007 and 970 in 2008 (the latest year available).[1, 2, 3]

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code L89 (Decubitus ulcer, bedsore, plaster ulcer or pressure ulcer) where it appeared anywhere on the death certificate.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are based on deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agency spent on (i) alcohol and (ii) entertainment in the last 12 months. [305544]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested is not held centrally by the Cabinet Office and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost. Any expenditure on alcohol and entertainment is included in the Department's hospitality budget and is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Managing Public Money" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

## Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department has spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which (i) the Prime Minister and (ii) other Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305523]

**Angela E. Smith:** This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Diseases: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* diagnosis and *(b)* mortality rate was for (i) chronic lung disease, (ii) coronary heart disease and (iii) cancer in Leeds, West constituency in each of the last 15 years. [306992]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked for to reply to your recent question asking what the (a) diagnosis and (b) mortality rate was for (i) chronic lung disease, (ii) coronary heart disease and (iii) cancer in Leeds, West constituency in each of the last 15 years. (306992)

Figures on newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of chronic lung disease and coronary heart disease are not readily available. Mortality and incidence rates for parliamentary constituencies which do not share boundaries exactly with a local authority can be calculated only from 2001 onwards. The tables below provide (a) the age standardised cancer incidence rate and (b) age standardised mortality rates for (i) chronic lung disease, (ii) coronary heart disease and (iii) cancer in Leeds, West parliamentary constituency for the years 2001 to 2007 (the latest available).

Parliamentary constituency population estimates on which these rates are based are experimental statistics, that is, statistics which are in a testing or consultation phase, and therefore should be treated with caution.

*Table 1: Age-standardised cancer incidence rates,[1, 2] Leeds, West parliamentary constituency,[3] 2001 to 2007[4, 5]*

| | Cancer (cases per 100,000) |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 435 |
| 2002 | 441 |
| 2003 | 409 |
| 2004 | 457 |
| 2005 | 484 |
| 2006 | 432 |
| 2007 | 400 |

[1] Age-standardised cancer registration rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Cancer incidence defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 excluding code C44: non-melanoma skin cancer.

[3] Based on boundaries and postcode allocation, as of 2009.

[4] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

[5] Parliamentary constituency population estimates used to calculate the incidence rates are experimental statistics.

*Table 2: Age standardised mortality rates for chronic lung disease, coronary heart disease and cancer,[1, 2] Leeds, West parliamentary constituency,[3] 2001 to 2007[4]*

Deaths per 100,000

| | Chronic lung disease | Chronic heart disease | Cancer |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 48 | 142 | 209 |
| 2002 | 59 | 152 | 243 |
| 2003 | 59 | 130 | 219 |
| 2004 | 46 | 126 | 229 |
| 2005 | 50 | 125 | 215 |
| 2006 | 34 | 116 | 209 |
| 2007 | 35 | 140 | 260 |

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Cause of death was defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes J40-J47for chronic lung disease, 120-125 for coronary heart disease and C00-C97 for cancer.

[3] Based on boundaries and postcode allocation, as of 2009.

[4] Parliamentary constituency population estimates used to calculate the incidence rates are experimental statistics.

## Employment: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people are employed in (1) the service sector in Leeds; [306583]

(2) the financial sector in Leeds; [306584]

(3) commerce in each industry sector in *(a)* Leeds, West constituency and *(b)* Leeds; [306585]

(4) manufacturing in each industry sector in *(a)* Leeds, West constituency and *(b)* Leeds. [306586]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people are employed in the service sector in Leeds; how many people are employed in the financial sector in Leeds; how many people are employed in commerce in each industry sector in (a) Leeds, West constituency and (b) Leeds; and how many people are employed in manufacturing in each industry sector in (a) Leeds, West constituency and (b) Leeds (306583,306584, 306585 and 306586)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Unfortunately the sample size does not support analyses of employment by industry for the Leeds, West Constituency.

Table 1 shows the number of persons in employment by each industrial sector for persons resident in Leeds for the latest available 12 month period, ending in March 2009 from the APS.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in table 1.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at: http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Table 1: Number of persons resident in Leeds in employment in each industrial sector, April 2008 to March 2009*

| | Thousands |
|---|---|
| Agriculture and Fishing | 1****_ |
| Energy and Water | 1****_ |
| Manufacturing | ***43 |
| Construction | ***30 |
| Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants | **69 |
| Transport and Communications | ***29 |
| Banking, Finance and Insurance | **70 |

*Table 1: Number of persons resident in Leeds in employment in each industrial sector, April 2008 to March 2009*

| | *Thousands* |
|---|---|
| Public Administration, Education and Health | **105 |
| Other Services | ***19 |
| Total | *372 |

[1] *Not available.*

*Note:*

*Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.*

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness*

* 0 = CV≤5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV ≤10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV ≤20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey

## Gift Aid

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which charities claimed more from the Exchequer in Gift Aid than the sum spent on charitable purposes in the most recent year for which figures are available. [307644]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the commission to reply.

*Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 14 December 2009:*

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on which charities claimed more from the Exchequer in Gift Aid than the sum spent on charitable purposes in the most recent year for which figures are available (307644).

The charity accounting framework does not require charities to account for Gift Aid as a separate item and we do not hold information on Gift Aid claims or receipts.

I am sorry I am unable to provide more information in respect of this question.

## National Income: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the gross domestic product per head of the resident population in the City of Leeds was in each year since 1992. [306589]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

The Office for National Statistics publishes regional GVA rather than GDP. GVA is measured at current basic prices, which is GDP less taxes on products, plus subsidies on products. GVA by NUTS3 regions, (principally individual counties and unitary authorities) has been calculated since 1995. The latest year for which GVA is published at NUTS3 level is 2007 and the earliest is 1995.

The headline GVA estimates for the Leeds NUTS3 area, shown as £ per head figures, for the period 1995-2007, are shown in the table below:

*City of Leeds*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1995 | 12,640 |
| 1996 | 13,466 |
| 1997 | 14,426 |
| 1998 | 15,383 |
| 1999 | 16,252 |
| 2000 | 16,914 |
| 2001 | 17,796 |
| 2002 | 18,691 |
| 2003 | 19,744 |
| 2004 | 20,401 |
| 2005 | 20,769 |
| 2006 | 21,496 |
| 2007 | 22,387 |

*Source:*

Table 3.2, Regional GVA, ONS, available on the National Statistics website at: http://nswebcopy/downloads/theme_economy/NUTS3.xls

## Population: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what forecast she has made of the population of Leeds City Council area in *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 15 years' time. [306985]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question about the forecast of the population of Leeds City Council in *(a)* five *(b)* ten and *(c)* fifteen years time [306985].

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not produce population forecasts.

However, ONS does produce population projections for local authorities. The subnational population projections are demographic trend-based projections that indicate what the population levels of an area are likely to be if recently observed trends in fertility, mortality and migration were to continue. They take no account of future development policies which may affect trends.

These projections are provided in Table 1 below. They are 2006-based subnational population projections which were published by the Office for National Statistics on 12 June 2008.

*Table 1: Population Projections for Leeds*

| | | | *Thousand* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Local Authority* | *Mid-2014* | *Mid-2019* | *Mid-2024* |
| Leeds | 828 | 874 | 916 |

## Private Life: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* marriages, *(b)* civil partnerships and *(c)* divorces in the London Borough of Bexley in the most recent period for which figures are available. [306897]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the number of (a) marriages, (b) civil partnerships and (c) divorces in the London Borough of Bexley in the most recent period for which figures are available. (306897)

Using the most recent period for which figures are available for the London Borough of Bexley, the number of marriages in 2006 was 964 and the number of civil partnerships in 2008 was 24.

Divorce statistics are based upon information supplied to ONS by the courts in England and Wales. The fact that a divorce has taken place in a court in a particular region does not mean that either one or both parties are resident there. Therefore, divorce statistics have been historically presented at a national level only.

## UK Statistics Authority: Conferences

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the UK Statistics Authority's buildings attended by civil servants in the UK Statistics Authority there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307447]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) away days and (b) conferences outside the UK Statistics Authority's buildings attended by civil servants in the UK. Statistics Authority there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. 307447

The requested information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Unemployment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many and what percentage of economically inactive working age people would like a job; and how many and what percentage of economically inactive working age people would have liked a job in each year that the relevant dataset has been produced; [307062]

(2) how many discouraged workers there are; and how many discouraged workers there were in each year that the relevant dataset has been produced. [307064]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking (i) how many and what percentage of economically inactive working age people would like a job; and how many and what percentage of economically inactive working age people would have liked a job in each year that this data set has been produced (307062); and (ii) how many discouraged workers there are; and how many discouraged workers there were in each year that this data set has been produced (307064).

Estimates of economic inactivity are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). In accordance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition, people are classed as economically inactive if they are neither in employment nor unemployed.

The table provided contains estimates of the number of economically inactive people who would like a job, that is, people who when asked, report that they would like to have a regular paid job but had neither been looking for work in the last four weeks nor waiting to take up a job already obtained. Estimates of the number of discouraged workers, those whose main reason for being economically inactive is because they believe there are no jobs available, are also included.

These estimates are published in Table 13 of the Labour Market Statistical Bulletin. The historical figures in Table 13 are published in the Labour Market Statistical Bulletin Historical Supplement which is available on the National Statistics website via the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/LMS_FR_HS.asp

*Level and percentage of economically inactive working age people who would like a job and those who are discouraged workers; quarter 1 each year 1993 to 2009, United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted*

| | Would like a job | | Discouraged workers | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Level (thousand) | Percentage[1] | Level (thousand) | Percentage[2] |
| 1993 | 2,221 | 29.7 | 148 | 2.0 |
| 1994 | 2,250 | 29.8 | 137 | 1.8 |
| 1995 | 2,212 | 29.2 | 112 | 1.5 |
| 1996 | 2,365 | 30.9 | 94 | 1.2 |
| 1997 | 2,361 | 30.9 | 71 | 0.9 |
| 1998 | 2,343 | 30.7 | 71 | 0.9 |
| 1999 | 2,268 | 30.0 | 67 | 0.9 |
| 2000 | 2,269 | 29.9 | 52 | 0.7 |
| 2001 | 2,224 | 28.6 | 34 | 0.4 |
| 2002 | 2,233 | 28.8 | 39 | 0.5 |
| 2003 | 2,088 | 26.8 | 35 | 0.4 |
| 2004 | 2,051 | 25.8 | 32 | 0.4 |
| 2005 | 2,055 | 25.9 | 32 | 0.4 |
| 2006 | 2,096 | 26.7 | 38 | 0.5 |
| 2007 | 2,086 | 26.3 | 40 | 0.5 |
| 2008 | 2,121 | 27.0 | 36 | 0.5 |
| 2009 | 2,244 | 28.1 | 73 | 0.9 |

[1] The number of people of working age who are inactive and would like a job divided by the number of people of working age who are economically inactive.

[2] The number of people of working age who are inactive and are a discouraged worker divided by the number of people of working age who are economically inactive.

*Note:*

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.).

*Source:*

Labour Force Survey

## Voluntary Organisations

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which national infrastructure voluntary organisations operate in England; in what year each started operation; and if she will make a statement. [307186]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Cabinet Office does not hold information on which national infrastructure voluntary organisations are operating in England. National infrastructure organisations that have charitable status are registered with the Charity Commission, and the Register of Charities is available on their website. The Office of the Third Sector is committed to investing in national and local sector support organisations that assist front-line groups, through Capacitybuilders. The Office of the Third Sector also funds a variety of national strategic partners, listed on its website, many of whom provide capacity building support, advocacy and training to the wider third sector.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 16 December 2009*

## PRIME MINISTER

### Central Ayrshire: Visit

Q13. **Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Prime Minister when he next plans to visit Central Ayrshire. [307400]

**Ms Harman:** I have been asked to answer.

My right hon. Friend has no current plans to do so.

### Cabinet: Meetings

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* dates, *(b)* locations and *(c)* cost to the public purse have been of each meeting of the Cabinet held outside London since 27 June 2007. [306113]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to my answers of: 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1017W; 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 738W; 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 802W; 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 451W; 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W; and 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 378W.

The Cabinet met in Cardiff on July 23 2009. This was linked with a number of ministerial visits across the region; there was a public engagement event with around 203 people which was followed by a formal Cabinet meeting The cost of the public engagement event and the Cabinet meeting was approximately £77,433.61, excluding VAT. There are no separate figures for the Cabinet meeting. The figure includes the cost of hiring the venue, catering, associated security and delegate management. In addition, Departments and agencies will have incurred costs in terms of travel, staff time and other support. The cost of any security provided by the police is a matter for the relevant police force.

The visit of the Cabinet to Nottingham was on 20 November 2009. The final cost figures for this event are not yet available.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to respond to question 304527, on the 2009 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, tabled on 1 December 2009. [307609]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 548W.

## WALES

### Departmental Billing

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307962]

**Mr. Hain:** Since October 2008, my Department has paid the following number of invoices each month.

| | *Number of invoices paid* | *Percentage paid within 10 days* |
|---|---|---|
| October 2008 | 47 | 85 |
| November 2008 | 61 | 90 |
| December 2008 | 52 | 98 |
| January 2009 | 58 | 91 |
| February 2009 | 56 | 98 |
| March 2009 | 74 | 99 |
| April 2009 | 84 | 100 |
| May 2009 | 75 | 97 |
| June 2009 | 67 | 75 |
| July 2009 | 47 | 96 |
| August 2009 | 54 | 98 |
| September 2009 | 61 | 95 |
| October 2009 | 72 | 96 |
| November 2009 | 44 | 98 |

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307510]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office held one away day a year from 2006 until 2008 for the whole of the office. The cost of these venues was £8,055.40 in 2006, £13,526.04 in 2007 and £4,662 in 2008. In 2009, there were two events held for Legislation Branch and for Policy Branch. There was no cost for the venue for Legislation Branch and a charge of £596.75 for the venue for Policy Branch.

### Departmental Legislation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307792]

**Mr. Hain:** None.

### Departmental Pay

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* year end and *(b)* in year bonuses for its staff in 2009-10. [307022]

**Mr. Hain:** My Department does not allocate a budget specifically for bonuses.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each such year. [307105]

**Mr. Hain:** My Department paid the following in year bonuses:

One in 2006-07, nine in 2007-08 and two in 2008-09.

We paid the following year end bonuses:

Zero in 2006-07, five in 2007-08 and one in 2008-09.

The total amount paid in each year is as follows:

£862.30 in 2006-07, £5,200 in 2007-08 and £2,050 in 2008-09.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what percentage of parliamentary questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307550]

**Mr. Hain:** There were 22 named day parliamentary questions tabled for answer representing 88 per cent. which received a substantive answer.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Electoral Commission's buildings attended by civil servants in the Electoral Commission there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307469]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that to provide the information in the format requested would incur disproportionate costs. However, its expenditure on conference attendance, annual staff conferences and team development and planning days for the years requested was as follows:

£

| *Financial year* | *Expenditure on conference attendance* | *Annual staff conference* | *Expenditure on team development and planning days held off site* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 30,140 | 14,060 | — |
| 2006-07 | 26,720 | 16,650 | 14,020 |
| 2007-08 | 25,330 | 22,020 | 17,770 |
| 2008-09 | 30,920 | 5,260 | 18,270 |

The expenditure on conference attendance typically covers the attendance of Commissioners and Commission staff at the following types of events:

Political Party Conferences

Local political party events

Association of Electoral Administrators conferences

Local Government Association conferences

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) conferences.

The Electoral Commission is independent of Government and its 171 staff members are not civil servants.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Environmental Protection Flood Risk Regulations 2009

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will delay the entering into force of the Environmental Protection Flood Risk Regulations 2009 due to enter into force on 10 December 2009 until *(a)* all interested parties have been consulted and *(b)* both Houses of Parliament have scrutinised the Statutory Instrument. [307383]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Government consulted on provisions to implement the EU Floods Directive in the draft Flood and Water Management Bill (Cmnd 7582) published on 21 April. We received nearly 650 responses and these are summarised on DEFRA's website and are available from the DEFRA library. The EFRA Select Committee also scrutinised the draft Bill.

Specific reference was made to the regulations in the written ministerial statement on 19 November when the Flood and Water Management Bill was introduced and the Government response (Cmnd 7741) to the EFRA Select Committee report and to the consultation was published. All interested parties, including Parliament, have had an opportunity to scrutinise our plans for transposing the directive.

Laying the regulations on the day that the Flood and Water Management Bill was introduced provided an opportunity for each to be considered in the context of the other. The regulations have been considered by the House of Lords Select Committee on the Merits of Statutory Instruments and officials provided clarification to the committee.

### Fishing Catches

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much in tonnes and what percentage of UK fish catch was sent abroad for processing and then returned to the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; [307499]

(2) to which countries fish catch is sent for processing before being returned to the UK; and what weight of fish was sent to each country in the latest period for which figures are available. [307638]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Information on UK imports and exports of fish are published in UK Sea Fisheries Statistics, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. Figures on the amount of fish exported for fish processing are not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Floods: Property Development

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent assessment is of progress in the revision of Planning Policy Statement 25 since June 2009; and what estimate he has made of the number of houses to have a flood kit. [306810]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Government agree with Sir Michael Pitt's Review of the summer 2007 floods that found that the policy approach in Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk (PPS25) is sound and should be rigorously applied.

On 11 August 2009 the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) published proposals for public consultation to make a limited number of amendments to Annexe D of PPS25 to clarify how certain aspects of the policy should be applied. The public consultation period closed on 3 November and CLG is now considering the responses received.

No estimate has been made of the number of properties that have prepared a flood kit. As outlined in our recent Pitt progress report, we have always acknowledged this was up to individuals, but would be supported by communication campaigns taken forward by the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency has done this in its recent "Preparing for a Flood" guide, which promotes how flood kits should be made up.

### Metals: Waste Disposal

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2009 in respect of their provision for the metal recycling sector. [306333]

**Dan Norris:** The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2009 will come into force in April 2010. The regulations will allow operators to benefit from new or revised exemptions that are free to register for, from that date. The regulations also include transitional provisions for those existing operations that will be required to obtain an environmental permit. In the case of the metal recycling sector, operators who need a permit will be required to apply for one by 30 September 2013. This period has been provided to allow operators sufficient time to fulfil the requirements for obtaining a permit. It would, therefore, be inappropriate to suggest revisions at this time as these changes are being implemented.

I would also refer the hon. Member to my written answer 14 December, *Official Report,* column 655W, on the subject of how we will subsequently review the 2009 Regulations.

### Rights of Way

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many appeals regarding rights of way the National Casework team has under consideration; and for how long on average such appeals have been under consideration. [306815]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The National Rights of Way Casework Team has 99 Schedule 14 Appeal cases under consideration as at 15 December 2009, averaging 68.6 weeks handling period per case to date.

### Seas and Oceans: Pollution

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the marine and coastal environment of plastics that have been dumped at sea or on beaches. [307639]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA has been working with the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) to incorporate the MCS long-term dataset for beach litter levels and sources of litter in the UK to assess UK marine litter levels as part of the evidence collection process for the Charting Progress 2 report.

Charting Progress 2 is an integrated assessment of the state of the UK seas that will measure progress towards achieving the Government's marine vision and will be published in 2010. The report will form an important building block in the Initial Assessment of UK waters, required by 2012 under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

DEFRA is working with international colleagues in OSPAR (the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic) to support assessments of marine litter, and the OSPAR Quality Status Report (QSR) due to be published in 2010, will contain a regional assessment of litter levels.

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* non-governmental organisations of cleaning refuse from the coast in each year since 1997. [307640]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** No estimate of the costs for cleaning refuse from coastal areas to DEFRA, local authorities or non-government organisations has been made.

Through the Environmental Protection Act (1990) local authorities have a statutory duty to keep their beaches clean down to the high water mark and many have beach management plans in place.

Beaches are regularly monitored through the National Indicator Set and many are signed up to such awards such as the international "Blue Flag" and England's "Quality Coast Award", both administered by Keep Britain Tidy.

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department holds on the *(a)* area covered by and *(b)* in weight tonnes of the mass of plastic debris identified in the Pacific Ocean; and what discussions he has had with international agencies on steps to reduce the effect on the marine environment of that debris. [307660]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The published literature on the Pacific litter gyre indicates that the area concerned is found within the North Pacific Subtropical High, an area of international waters, between Hawaii and California. Researchers have pointed out that the weight of litter is very difficult to estimate due to the patchiness of debris in this expansive area, but could be in the order of 6 million tonnes.

My officials attend the meetings of several international agencies where the reduction of litter in the marine environment is discussed and where appropriate actions are considered, particularly the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North

East Atlantic in which the UK is actively involved in the marine litter working group, which focuses on the North East Atlantic.

### Whales: Conservation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has made to the governments of other countries on whaling since the last meeting of the International Whaling Commission in June 2009; what plans he has to make further such representations before the next meeting of the Commission in June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [307191]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** I wrote to the Japanese Minister of Fisheries on 24 October expressing the UK's continued opposition to the killing of whales in the Southern Ocean and the North west Pacific and to the hunting of small cetaceans in Japanese coastal waters.

On 2 October, the UK took part in a strong diplomatic protest (démarche) to Iceland expressing our extreme disappointment with the killing of almost 200 minke and fin whales this year and called upon the Icelandic Government to review Iceland's Whaling policy.

Before the next annual meeting of the IWC Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts will again lobby countries in support of the UK's position, seeking to encourage new anti-whaling nations to join the IWC and endeavouring to change the opinion of Governments which currently support whaling.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Capita

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and her Department and its predecessors have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts since 1997. [303093]

**Jim Knight:** In December 2007, Capita Health Solutions was successful in a competition to deliver an Occupational Health Service for DWP to commence in April 2007. DWP and Capita mutually agreed to disengage from this arrangement with effect from August 2007. No penalties were arising.

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let by her Department in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much her Department paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc hold with her Department; and what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between her Department and Capita Group plc. [303149]

**Jim Knight:** The following table provides a summary of the information requested.

| *Question* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| How many occasions Capita Group Plc tendered for contracts with DWP in each of the last five years | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| How many such tenders were successful | 2 | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| How much DWP paid to Capita Group Plc for the execution of contracts in each such year (£ million) | 47.79 | 53.10 | 54.80 | 26.71 | 39.13 |
| How many contracts which terminate after 2010 that Capita Group Plc hold with DWP | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| What the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between DWP and Capita Group Plc | The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. | | | | |

Details of the contracts captured in the table are in the background notes.

### Conditions of Employment

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent steps her Department has taken to protect employment rights *(a)* in Coventry and *(b)* nationally; [303866]

(2) whether her Department holds information for benchmarking purposes on employment rights in other EU member states. [303868]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 3 December 2009]*: These issues are a matter for my right hon. Friend the Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills.

### Crime

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many reported crimes there were of each type in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies in each year since 1997. [306366]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: Reports of crimes will normally be made to the local police forces. Consequently no central records are held, and to obtain the requested level of detail would involve disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Data Protection

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many thefts of data from the Labour Market System database have been identified in each of the last five years. [303038]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: The Department takes very seriously its responsibility to protect personal information. If individual employees are found to have misused their position (for example, by accessing without authority information that is recorded on any of the Department's databases), then such matters will be dealt with firmly, including dismissal and, where appropriate, prosecution.

Incidents will normally be investigated and dealt with locally. However, details of such incidents, and the action taken, are not recorded centrally, and to obtain this information in respect of the last five years would involve disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors her Department's website received in 2008-09. [301853]

**Jim Knight:** In 2008-09 the Department for Work and Pension website received:

68, 298,137 page views, and

9,498,849 unique visitors.

### Departmental Legal Costs

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure her Department and its agencies have incurred on external legal advice and representation in each year since 1997; and for what purposes such professional services have been commissioned. [300578]

**Jim Knight:** The information is as follows:

*DWP legal category spending by year*

| | *Spend (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10[1] | 12,434,882 |
| 2008-09 | 18,854,926 |
| 2007-08 | 18,864,410 |
| 2006-07 | 14,851,405 |
| 2005-06 | 18,564,671 |
| 2004-05 | 15,444,475 |
| 2003-04 | 17,263,198 |

[1] The 2009-10 spend is for the period 1 April to 31 October 2009.

DWP's costs for external legal advice and representation are captured under a range of existing commercial contracts that relate to the following areas. A more detailed breakdown of expenditure or the scope of previous contracts from 1997 onwards could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

*1. IS/IT*

acts as the strategic legal adviser and provides project support to DWP and its corporate information technology directorate. A range of legal services for existing and prospective information service/technology contracts are provided.

*2. Human Resources*

provides advice, guidance and assistance for HR policy development, training and awareness products, risk assessment, private prosecution, banning and warning letters to customers, injunctions, international law and general legal matters as necessary. Where appropriate it conducts litigation proceedings for DWP in employment tribunal claims and personal injury compensation claims.

*3. Estates*

provides advice to the commercial estates function in support of the PRIME estates contract and associated advice in relation to general property law.

*4. Commercial Legal Services*

provides legal advice and commercial guidance on DWP services delivered on behalf of welfare to work customers and on general commercial policy issues.

*5. In House Lawyers*

DWP's in house lawyers expenditure on external legal services comprises a range of payments, including those to meet other sides' costs, where these are required to be paid as a result of litigation; payments made to counsel from the Attorney-General's approved list for prosecutions, litigation or advisory services; and payments to local agent solicitors for prosecutions, some civil litigation and other occasional work.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* laptop computers, *(b)* desktop computers and *(c)* memory sticks her Department and its agencies have recorded as having been (i) lost and (ii) stolen from its offices in Scotland in each of the last 10 years. [306695]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: Details of items reported as lost and stolen are recorded at departmental level and the information requested cannot be provided in respect of Scotland without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Pay

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which her Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300634]

**Jim Knight:** It is not DWP practice for the Department or its agencies and non-departmental public bodies to pay contractors bonuses or incentives. DWP follows National Audit Office advice which recommends that a variety of payment mechanisms should be used in contract pricing. This approach is also endorsed by the Office for Government Commerce in their Guide to Consultancy Pricing.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of jobs advertised by her Department in the last 12 months were online only applications; and what provision her Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in her Department who do not have access to the internet. [301540]

**Jim Knight:** None of the vacancies advertised in the last 12 months were limited to online applications. We encourage the majority of candidates to apply online however, where the candidate has a disability, or other reason for being unable to complete an online application, a paper application is accepted.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 her Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305212]

**Jim Knight:** The information is as follows:

(i) As at 7 December 2009, the Department for Work and Pensions operates the following lines.

| | *Lines* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* 0870 | 13 |
| *(b)* 0845 | 6,060 |
| *(c)* 0800 | 154 |

(ii) All lines are 'operated' by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP); there are no 'sponsored' lines.

With reference to the number of calls received by each 08XX number, the complexity of the Department's telephony network and our current billing arrangement with our service provider, BT, does not provide us with this data as the Department does not require it. To provide it, the Department would need to submit a formal request to BT to give us an estimate of the cost of supplying this data. This could not be done within the time scales of this question.

Alternative numbers are not available. 0800/0845 numbers are integral to the Department's telephony strategy and underpin the delivery of good customer service. The 0800 and 0845 numbers are clearly signposted to customers for the services that they wish to access and the service is organised so that the customer is routed to the best agent to help with their call.

The Department's telephony strategy is that calls to claim benefit should be free to customers so it uses 0800 free phone numbers for these calls. The great majority of the Department's customers use landlines to contact the Department's 0800 free phone lines where the calls are free. The Department uses 0845 telephone numbers where its customers call for other reasons, and these are calls typically that take less time to resolve. The charges that apply to these calls will be set by the customer's telephone or mobile operator.

Where a customer calling our 0800 or 0845 services asks us, or raises concerns over the cost of the call, we offer to call them back.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received support from an advocate when applying for employment and support allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [304772]

**Jim Knight:** Information on claimants receiving support from an advocate is not available.

### Employment and Support Allowance: Medical Examinations

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the *(a)* unit cost and *(b)* cost to date of conducting the medical assessment process associated with employment and support allowance delivered under the Atos Healthcare contract; and if she will make a statement. [305269]

**Jim Knight:** The cost to date of conducting the medical assessment process associated with Employment and Support Allowance is £36.2 million covering the period up to 25 November 2009. This covers the costs of the medical assessments including Work Focused Health Related Assessments, gathering information from customers and health care professionals, investments in information technology and Estates infrastructure, overheads and set-up costs.

DWP is unable to disclose the unit cost of individual medical assessments as to do so would jeopardise the Department's commercial interests and dealings with Atos Healthcare or other service providers when negotiating future re-tenders.

### New Deal Schemes

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of jobseekers aged between 18 and 24 years old have gone off benefits without finding a job *(a)* before and *(b)* after completing a New Deal Gateway to Work course. [303029]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not available.

### Scientists

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in her Department. [302021]

**Jim Knight:** There are no external scientific advisers in the Department for Work and Pensions, however, there are three civil servants within the Department employed in posts which require them to give scientific advice. The Department also employs a number of statisticians, economists, social researchers and operational researchers but these are not classified as scientific posts.

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions she has met *(a)* the Government Chief Scientific Adviser and *(b)* her Department's Chief Scientific Adviser in the course of her official duties in the last 12 months. [304004]

**Jim Knight:** The Department's chief scientific adviser is also the Department's chief medical adviser and health work and well-being policy director and in these different capacities has had numerous meetings with the Secretary of State during the last 12 months. During the same period, the Secretary of State has had no meetings with the Government's chief scientific adviser.

### Unemployment Benefits

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of young people in each *(a)* region, *(b)* constituency and *(c)* local authority area are claiming out of work benefits. [306373]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: The available information has been placed in the Library.

### Unemployment: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in Castle Point constituency had been claiming jobseeker's allowance for *(a)* less than six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months, *(c)* between 12 months and two years and *(d)* more than two years on the latest date for which information is available; [307503]

(2) what the average length of time was for which a claimant resident in Castle Point constituency to be in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in each of the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years; [307504]

(3) how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point had been unemployed for over (i) six and (ii) 12 months in each of the last six months; [307505]

(4) how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency were unemployed in (i) May 1997 and (ii) each of the last six months for which figures are available. [307509]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people in Castle Point constituency have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for (a) less than six months, (b) between six and 12 months, (c) between 12 months and two years and (d) more than two years on the latest date for which information is available; what the average length of time was for which claimant resident in Castle Point constituency to be in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in each of the last (a) 12 months and (b) five years; how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in (a) Essex and (b) Castle Point have been unemployed for over (i) six and (ii) 12 months in each of the last six months and how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in (a) Essex and (b) Castle Point constituency were unemployed in (i) May 1997 and (ii) each of the last six months for which figures are available (307503, 307504, 307505, 307509).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

However, estimates of unemployment for the requested age band, duration and geographies are not available. As an alternative, questions relating to unemployment have also been answered using Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) data.

Table 1 attached, shows the number of persons resident in Castle Point constituency claiming JSA for (a) up to 26 weeks, (b) over 26 and up to 52 weeks, (c) over 52 and up to 104 weeks and (d) over 104 weeks in October 2009.

Table 2 attached, shows the median length of live claims during the last 12 months up to the latest available period in October 2009, and for October of each of the last 5 years.

Table 3 attached, shows the number of persons, aged 16 to 24, claiming JSA, in the requested geographies, for (a) over 26 weeks and (b) over 52 weeks in October 2009 and the previous 5 months.

Table 4 attached, shows the number of persons, aged 16 to 24, claiming JSA in the requested geographies in (a) May 1997 and (b) from May to October 2009.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Table 1: Number of persons[1] resident in Castle Point claiming jobseeker's allowance by length of claim, October 2009*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Up to 26 weeks | 1,205 |
| Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks | 400 |
| Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks | 115 |
| Over 104 weeks | 20 |

[1] Length of claim data are only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

*Note:*

Data rounded to nearest five.

*Source:*

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System.

*Table 2: Median length of claim of jobseeker's allowance of persons[1] resident in Castle Point constituency*

| | Median length of claim (months) |
|---|---|
| October 2004 | 11.2 |
| October 2005 | 11.8 |
| October 2006 | 12.8 |
| October 2007 | 11.1 |
| October 2008 | 8.9 |
| November 2008 | 8.2 |
| December 2008 | 8.6 |
| January 2009 | 9.3 |
| February 2009 | 9.6 |
| March 2009 | 10.7 |
| April 2009 | 11.0 |
| May 2009 | 12.5 |
| June 2009 | 13.6 |
| July 2009 | 14.1 |
| August 2009 | 13.8 |
| September 2009 | 13.7 |
| October 2009 | 13.1 |

[1] Length of claim data are only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

*Source:*

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System.

*Table 3: Number of persons[1] age 16 to 24 claiming jobseeker's allowance by duration of claim*

| | Essex | | Castle Point | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Over 26 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks* |
| May 2009 | 1,450 | 110 | 80 | 5 |
| June 2009 | 1,575 | 125 | 80 | 5 |
| July 2009 | 1,535 | 140 | 85 | 5 |
| August 2009 | 1,680 | 150 | 85 | 10 |
| September 2009 | 1,525 | 160 | 75 | 10 |
| October 2009 | 1,390 | 160 | 75 | 10 |

[1] Length of claim data are only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

*Note:*

Data rounded to nearest five.

*Source:*

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System.

*Table 4: Number of persons age 16 to 24 claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Essex and Castle Point*

| | Essex | Castle Point |
|---|---|---|
| May 1997 | 6,135 | 425 |
| May 2009 | 8,520 | 595 |
| June 2009 | 8,240 | 545 |
| July 2009 | 8,440 | 565 |

*Table 4: Number of persons age 16 to 24 claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Essex and Castle Point*

| | *Essex* | *Castle Point* |
|---|---|---|
| August 2009 | 8,600 | 570 |
| September 2009 | 8,420 | 580 |
| October 2009 | 8,385 | 560 |

*Note:*
Data rounded to nearest five.
*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System.

### Vacancies

**Chloe Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many vacancies have been reported to Jobcentres in *(a)* Norwich North constituency and *(b)* each region (i) in each year since 1997 and (ii) in 2009 to date. [301697]

**Jim Knight:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

### Vocational Training

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps her Department is taking to promote re-skilling initiatives in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the UK; [304303]

(2) how many re-skilling initiatives there are; and how much funding her Department has allocated in support of such schemes in 2009-10. [304305]

**Jim Knight:** We are working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and partners to implement a Government commitment to deliver a fully Integrated Employment and Skills (IES) service in England. The new integrated service will bring together and reform existing employment and skills services to better support skills acquisition, employment and career progression. IES trials are currently operating in 12 areas in England, one of which is in Coventry, and another four of which are in other parts of the West Midlands.

The vision and principles of IES are shared across Great Britain. However, as skills policy is devolved in Scotland and Wales, we are working with their Governments to explore how an integrated service can be piloted and delivered in the devolved Administrations.

The current challenging economic climate makes our focus on skills ever more important on an individual level for people who have been caught up in the downturn. As part of our response to the recession, we have intensified our support to help individuals identify skills needs and make more training available to jobseekers, through the response to redundancy package, the six month offer and the Young Person's Guarantee. The Government have allocated over £350 million in funding over two years for the training element of these programmes.

## TRANSPORT

### AP Braking

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 31W, on the Caparo Group, what the monetary value is of the contract his Department holds with AP Braking Ltd. [307647]

**Chris Mole:** The answer I gave to the hon. Member on 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 31W, about whether the Department for Transport holds contracts with each company of the Caparo Group was incorrect.

The Vehicle Certification Agency previously carried out approval work through a third party on AP Braking's products. However, there was no contract between the Department for Transport and AP Braking.

### Aviation: Carbon Emissions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average carbon emissions were per UK air passenger in each year since 1997. [306972]

**Mr. Khan:** The following table provides estimates of aviation carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) emissions per passenger for all domestic and international air passengers flying from UK airports in each year from 1997 to 2007.

2008 Air Passenger data are available but the 2008 $CO_2$ emissions data will be released in February 2010.

*Table: Estimates of average $CO_2$ emissions per passenger flying from UK airports, 1997-2007*

| | *Domestic aviation* | | | *International aviation* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Carbon Dioxide (million tonnes)* | *Departing passengers (millions)* | *Average $CO_2$ per passenger (tonnes)* | *Carbon Dioxide (million tonnes)* | *Departing passengers (millions)* | *Average $CO_2$ per passenger (tonnes)* |
| 1997 | 1.46 | 16.0 | 0.09 | 22.74 | 57.3 | 0.40 |
| 1998 | 1.59 | 16.7 | 0.10 | 25.30 | 62.7 | 0.40 |
| 1999 | 1.76 | 17.5 | 0.10 | 27.49 | 66.7 | 0.41 |
| 2000 | 1.90 | 18.6 | 0.10 | 30.31 | 71.3 | 0.42 |
| 2001 | 1.99 | 19.2 | 0.10 | 29.56 | 71.4 | 0.41 |
| 2002 | 2.00 | 21.0 | 0.09 | 29.01 | 73.3 | 0.40 |
| 2003 | 2.04 | 22.9 | 0.09 | 29.72 | 77.1 | 0.39 |
| 2004 | 2.18 | 24.3 | 0.09 | 32.53 | 83.6 | 0.39 |
| 2005 | 2.38 | 25.1 | 0.09 | 35.09 | 89.0 | 0.39 |
| 2006 | 2.29 | 24.9 | 0.09 | 35.65 | 92.7 | 0.38 |

*Table: Estimates of average $CO_2$ emissions per passenger flying from UK airports, 1997-2007*

| | Domestic aviation | | | International aviation | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Carbon Dioxide (million tonnes) | Departing passengers (millions) | Average $CO_2$ per passenger (tonnes) | Carbon Dioxide (million tonnes) | Departing passengers (millions) | Average $CO_2$ per passenger (tonnes) |
| 2007 | 2.14 | 24.4 | 0.09 | 34.97 | 96.0 | 0.36 |

*Notes:*

1. Domestic aviation includes all departures from UK airports flying to another UK airport. International aviation includes all departures from a UK airport flying to a destination outside of the UK. These will carry both UK and foreign passengers.
2. The aviation $CO_2$ emissions are derived from bunker fuel sales, which broadly equates to all departing aircraft (excluding military aircraft). Therefore the figures in the table do not reflect emissions from surface access nor emissions from airport buildings.
3. Emissions from freighter aircraft have been allocated to passengers in these illustrative figures.
4. The $CO_2$ emissions do not account for non-$CO_2$ climate change effects of aviation emissions.

*Source:*

Carbon dioxide emissions—AEA Energy and Environment/DECC.
Passengers—Civil Aviation Authority statistics.

The average $CO_2$ per passenger figures in the table have been calculated by dividing total $CO_2$ emissions from departing flights by the number of departing passengers. They do not therefore reflect a weighted average of emissions to account for the relative numbers of flights flying different trip lengths. The level of emissions per passenger will be affected by such factors as load factors, type of aircraft used and fuel efficiency changes.

## Biofuels: Imports

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of biodiesel used in the UK was imported from the US in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [306975]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department does not hold information on biofuel supplied before the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) began in April 2008.

Provisional data from the Renewable Fuels Agency show that 38 per cent. of the biodiesel supplied for use in the UK in 2008-09 was reported as coming from the US.

## Bus Services: Fares

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the percentage change in bus fares in *(a)* passenger transport executive areas, *(b)* other urban areas, *(c)* London and *(d)* other areas of England was from one year to the next in each year since 2007. [307039]

**Mr. Khan:** Figures are available for Passenger Transport Executive (PTE) areas and London, but it is not possible to separate other urban areas and other areas of England using published statistics. The available statistics are shown in the following table.

*Year-on-year percentage change in bus fares index in England*

| Financial year | London | PTE areas[1] | Rest of England[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 8 | 1 | -4 |
| 2007-08 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| 2008-09 | 0 | 7 | 6 |

[1] PTE areas are Tyne and Wear, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and the West Midlands.

[2] The negative fares growth in the "Rest of England" in 2006-07 is largely a result of the introduction of the free local bus travel concession for older or disabled people in April 2006. This generally had a greater impact on fares structures outside of London and the PTE areas.

These percentage changes are calculated using the differences in the average of the bus fares index over each year. They therefore reflect the change from the average fare level in the previous year to the average fare level in the current year.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what formula is used to allocate national concessionary bus fare grants to local authorities. [307579]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) provides the majority of concessionary travel funding to local authorities through Formula Grant. This is a block grant, so it is not possible to say how much of this grant is provided for concessionary travel. Formula grant is largely distributed using the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the authority, together with the number of band-D equivalent properties within the authority's area.

The Department for Transport provides the remainder through a special grant. This is funding solely to cover the extra costs brought about by the improvement to the statutory minimum concession which gives free off-peak local bus travel England-wide from April 2008.

The special grant formula takes into account the eligible local population, bus patronage, overnight visitors and retail space. It is designed to direct funding towards areas of greater demand, such as coastal towns and urban centres.

The Government recognise that there are some issues around the distribution of special grant and that some Travel Concession Authorities have genuine funding problems, so we are now consulting on changes to the distribution of the special grant for 2010-11. The proposed revised distribution is based on an analysis of the actual additional costs incurred in 2008-09 as a result of the improved concession.

## Bus Services: Yorkshire

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which bus companies his Department subsidises in Yorkshire; and how much funding it provided to each such company in each of the last 10 years. [307645]

**Mr. Khan:** The Government subsidise bus services in England through the Department's bus service operators grant (BSOG) which is paid to operators of local bus services.

The following table shows BSOG payments made to bus operators in Yorkshire in 2008-09 and 2009-10. Data are not available for years prior to 2008-09.

£

| *Operator* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *Grand total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Abbey Travel | 8,645 | 14,918 | 23,563 |
| Acklams Coaches Ltd. | 16,223 | 49,292 | 65,515 |
| Andrews (Sheffield) Ltd. | 1,094,361 | 823,279 | 1,917,640 |
| Arriva Yorkshire Ltd. | 2,307,938 | 1,873,074 | 4,181,012 |
| Arriva Yorkshire North Ltd. | 564,823 | 452,286 | 1,017,109 |
| Arriva Yorkshire West Ltd. | 2,042,380 | 1,551,754 | 3,594,134 |
| As Coaches | 3,317 | 2,884 | 6,201 |
| Atkinson's Coaches | 2,345 | 2,343 | 4,688 |
| Aydons Travel Services | — | 996 | 996 |
| B. L. Travel | 55,300 | 51,193 | 106,493 |
| B. Line Travel Ltd. | 22,951 | — | 22,951 |
| Barnsley and District Traction Co. Ltd. | 190,517 | 119,566 | 310,083 |
| Bibby's of Ingleton | 2,598 | 2,020 | 4,618 |
| Botterills | 915 | 549 | 1,464 |
| Brecks International | 3,988 | 2,640 | 6,628 |
| Castle Coaches (Skipton) | 5,044 | 3,506 | 8,550 |
| Central Travel Sheffield Ltd. | 9,799 | 18,462 | 28,261 |
| City Travel Yorkshire Ltd. | 13,245 | 26,330 | 39,575 |
| Coastal and Country Coaches Ltd. | 24,832 | 19,787 | 44,619 |
| Darren Mayes T/A M. Travel | 67,598 | 56,690 | 124,288 |
| Denny's Coaches | 24,171 | 1,220 | 25,391 |
| Dewhirst Coaches | 1,206 | — | 1,206 |
| Door to Door Bus Co. | 5,516 | — | 5,516 |
| E. Stott and Sons Ltd. | 94,721 | 60,174 | 154,895 |
| East Yorks Motor Services Ltd. | 2,563,648 | 2,057,546 | 4,621,194 |
| Eddie Brown Tours Ltd. | 38 | — | 38 |
| Esk Valley Coaches Ltd. | — | 20 | 20 |
| Expressway Coaches Ltd. | 38,801 | 16,766 | 55,567 |
| Fair Rider | 57,757 | — | 57,757 |
| First Halifax | 2,027,006 | 1,448,793 | 3,475,799 |
| First Huddersfield | 1,392,889 | 1,079,992 | 2,472,881 |
| First Leeds | 6,708,944 | 5,012,644 | 11,721,588 |
| First South Yorkshire Ltd. | 8,479,453 | 6,457,669 | 14,937,122 |
| First West Yorkshire Ltd. | 2,990,381 | 1,868,643 | 4,859,024 |
| First York (Rider York) Ltd. | 1,616,168 | 1,043,766 | 2,659,934 |
| Frank Poppleton and Co. | 27,511 | 16,128 | 43,639 |
| G. and R. Travel | — | 476 | 476 |
| G Abbott and Sons | 121,246 | 163,095 | 284,341 |
| Geldards Coaches Ltd. | 42,054 | 48,681 | 90,735 |
| Godson's Coaches | 3,594 | 6,986 | 10,580 |
| H. Atkinson and Sons (Ingleby) Ltd. | 1,497 | 1,142 | 2,639 |
| Halifax Bus Co. Ltd. | 81,295 | 86,612 | 167,907 |
| Halifax Joint Committee | 155,031 | 114,088 | 269,119 |
| Harrogate and District Travel Ltd. | 979,919 | 748,602 | 1,728,521 |
| Harrogate Coach Travel | 131,226 | 116,204 | 247,430 |
| Harrogate District Community Transport Ltd. | 36,378 | 24,634 | 61,012 |
| Hodgson and Son | — | 12,358 | 12,358 |
| Horseless Carriage Services | 38,233 | 29,098 | 67,331 |
| Hutchinsons | 103,195 | 53,188 | 156,383 |
| J. J. Longstaff and Sons Ltd. | 16,391 | 7,084 | 23,475 |
| J. Motley and Son | 2,165 | 1,697 | 3,862 |
| J. S. Perry and Sons | 7,366 | — | 7,366 |
| Jacksons of Silsden 1988 Ltd. | 14,274 | 8,407 | 22,681 |
| John Rigby Travel | 2,646 | 2,748 | 5,394 |
| John Smith and Sons Ltd. | 53,608 | 36,902 | 90,510 |
| JRT | 4,505 | 4,184 | 8,689 |
| Keighley and District Travel Ltd. | 899,593 | 622,817 | 1,522,410 |
| Kirkby Lonsdale Coach Hire Ltd. | 54,111 | 49,681 | 103,792 |
| Ladyline Services | 8,927 | 3,845 | 12,772 |
| Leven Valley Coaches | 101,241 | 67,553 | 168,794 |
| Linburg Touring Ltd. | 25,656 | 32,075 | 57,731 |
| Loonat Coaches Travel Ltd. | 8,477 | 3,423 | 11,900 |
| Lords Coaches | 12,294 | 7,637 | 19,931 |
| M. and D. Mini Coach Hire | 3,525 | — | 3,525 |
| Manor Travel | 9,771 | — | 9,771 |
| Morse Coaches | 1,350 | 1,798 | 3,148 |
| Mount Taxis | 8,409 | 6,504 | 14,913 |
| Northern Spirit Minicoaches | 178 | — | 178 |
| Pearsons Coaches | 3,011 | 8,102 | 11,113 |
| Pennine Motor Services Ltd. | 80,140 | 67,330 | 147,470 |
| Pioneer Travel | 2,213 | — | 2,213 |
| Powells Bus Co. Ltd. | 151,779 | 133,298 | 285,077 |
| Procters of Bedale | 201,517 | 149,292 | 350,809 |
| R. Drury Coaches | 5,992 | 3,195 | 9,187 |
| R. Handley and Sons Ltd. | 6,128 | 3,545 | 9,673 |
| Rackford Coaches | 40 | 1,348 | 1,388 |
| Rainbow Travel | 2,373 | 1,585 | 3,958 |
| Reliance Motor Services | 62,061 | 59,752 | 121,813 |
| Rosemary Travel | 298 | — | 298 |
| Ross Travel | 47,449 | 40,334 | 87,783 |
| Route 1 Travel Ltd. | — | 8,525 | 8,525 |
| Sheffield Community Transport | 263,345 | 137,669 | 401,014 |
| Shoreline Suncruisers | 28,068 | 23,858 | 51,926 |
| South Yorkshire Motors | 34,487 | — | 34,487 |
| South Yorkshire Rider Ltd. | 6,238 | 30,613 | 36,851 |
| Star Travel Holidays Ltd. | 39,585 | 18,705 | 58,290 |
| Stephensons of Easingwold Ltd. | 291,389 | 233,532 | 524,921 |
| Stringers Pontefract Motorways | 15,430 | 15,480 | 30,910 |
| Sunny Travel | 25,819 | 10,552 | 36,371 |
| Swayne Coaches and Co | 34,482 | 25,334 | 59,816 |
| T. D. Travel | 17,308 | 20,046 | 37,354 |
| Tates Travel | 18,347 | 49,788 | 68,135 |

| *Operator* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | £<br>*Grand total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Teamdeck Ltd. T/A K-Line | 207,427 | 146,230 | 353,657 |
| Tetley's Motor Services Ltd. | 1,732 | 2,011 | 3,744 |
| Thornes Independent Ltd. | 16,149 | 7,499 | 23,648 |
| TLC Travel Ltd. | 25,657 | 43,726 | 69,383 |
| Top Line Travel of York Ltd. | 25,183 | — | 25,183 |
| Transdev York | 85,698 | 123,445 | 209,143 |
| Travel Master | — | 8,251 | 8,251 |
| Utopia Coaches | 13,130 | 10,513 | 23,643 |
| Veolia Transport | 276,295 | 14,139 | 290,435 |
| Wilfreda Luxury Coaches Ltd. | 173,406 | 142,601 | 316,007 |
| Woodside Continental Tours | 8,111 | 10,003 | 18,114 |
| York Pullman Bus Co. | 29,025 | 66,844 | 95,869 |
| Yorkshire Coastliner Ltd. | 483,081 | 362,801 | 845,882 |
| Yorkshire Traction Co. Ltd. | 2,313,959 | 1,488,989 | 3,802,948 |
| Grand total | 40,379,539 | 29,865,385 | 70,244,924 |

## Cars: Carbon Emissions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many cars with tailpipe carbon emissions below 110g/km were sold in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the number of such cars sold in each EU member state in each such year. [306965]

**Mr. Khan:** Data on carbon dioxide emissions per km ($gCO_2$/km) from new cars registered in the UK are only available up to the year 2008. These data are published on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/licensing/

A total of 75,000 new cars with $CO_2$ emissions under 110g $CO_2$/km were registered in the UK in 2008. The Department does not collect any data on the number of similar cars registered in other EU member states.

## Chief Executives: Pay

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what bonuses were paid to each agency chief executive within his responsibility in the last two years for which figures are available. [305948]

**Chris Mole:** Information on the remuneration of individual agency chief executives in the Department for Transport is included in their agency's annual report and accounts. Copies of these are available in the Libraries of the House.

## Dartford Crossing: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on the local residents' discount scheme for the Dartford Crossing. [306899]

**Mr. Khan:** From 1 August 2008 to 11 December 2009, the Department for Transport has received three items of ministerial correspondence specifically categorised as being about the local residents' discount scheme for the Dartford crossing.

In addition the Highways Agency and their service providers have dealt with a further 108 e-mails, four letters, 15 inquiries to the Highways Agency information line, 14 telephone calls directly to staff at the Dartford crossing and three complaints in person from members of the public.

## Departmental Computers

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance is issued to employees of his Department and its agencies on the use of work computers for personal tasks. [306704]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* Where the Department for Transport and its agencies allow staff to make use of work computers for personal tasks, advise and guidance is available via the intranet for all staff.

Staff are not permitted to make inappropriate use of departmental resources such as official time, materials, information and e-mail/internet system. Staff are advised to ensure that personal use does not place excessive demands on the Department's ICT facilities so that business use is impaired.

## Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305860]

**Chris Mole:** The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Office of Rail Regulations buildings attended by civil servants in that office there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307453]

**Chris Mole:** Because of the format in which data about how the costs of such events are recorded, the total number of away days and conferences held outside Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) buildings is unavailable.

The independent Office of Rail Regulation only holds separate information on expenditure on away days and conferences since 2007. Any information prior to this date could only be retrieved and provided at disproportionate cost.

Since September 2007, the independent Office of Rail Regulation has spent the following on away days and conferences:

*Table 1*

| *Financial year* | *Away days expenditure (£)* | *Conference expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08[1] | 28,027.31 | 20,115.95 |
| 2008-09 | 16,667.53 | 59,427.44 |
| 2009-10[2] | 25,828.71 | 25,601.40 |

[1] From September 2007 (when ORR moved to a new accounting system).
[2] From April to November 2009.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305525]

**Chris Mole:** During the last three financial calendar years for which figures are available, nothing was spent by the Department for Transport on ministerial photoshoots.

The Department has spent the following amounts on the production of videos in which Ministers appear: £2,752 in 2007-08 and £1,117 in 2008-09. The Department has not retained the figures for 2006-07.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305892]

**Chris Mole:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what percentage of Parliamentary Questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307529]

**Chris Mole:** In Session 2008-09 the Department responded to 669 (72.7 per cent.) of named day parliamentary questions on the due date.

Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the 'Guide to Parliamentary Work', at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee Report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

### Driving: Research

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned comparing the risks associated with drink driving with those associated with driving while using a hand-held mobile telephone. [307765]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport has neither undertaken nor commissioned any research on this question.

### Ferries: Safety

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what checks are in place to ensure that ferries servicing British ports do not sail with a dangerous load distribution. [306961]

**Paul Clark:** The Merchant Shipping (Weighing of Goods Vehicles and Other Cargo) Regulations 1988, as amended, require the owners of roll-on/roll-off passenger ships on short international voyages operating from United Kingdom ports to ensure that, with the exception of buses, all goods and other vehicles with an actual or maximum gross weight exceeding 7.5 tonnes, and any cargo items exceeding 7.5 tonnes, are individually weighed before loading. Those weights are then used to calculate the stability of the ship.

As part of the regular survey of UK registered ships and inspections of foreign ships operating out of UK ports, marine surveyors from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency may verify that the information required by the Merchant Shipping (Weighing of Goods Vehicles and Other Cargo) Regulations 1988 is supplied.

### Heathrow Airport

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what criteria apply in the determination of planning applications for a third runway at Heathrow airport. [307141]

**Paul Clark:** Any proposal for a third runway at Heathrow airport would be likely to meet the threshold for a nationally significant infrastructure project under the Planning Act 2008. The Government's intention is to switch on the new planning regime for transport infrastructure from 1 March 2010, and any application made after that date for a new runway caught by the threshold would be considered by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). Section 104 of the Act sets out the factors to which the IPC must have regard when determining an application. In the absence of a designated national policy statement at the point of decision, the application would be determined by the Secretary of State, based on a recommendation by the IPC.

### Heathrow Airport: Air Traffic

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many short-haul flights landed at Heathrow airport in 2008, broken down by *(a)* internal and *(b)* near-Europe flights. [306976]

**Paul Clark:** The number of internal (UK domestic) flights that landed at Heathrow in 2008 was 30,000.

The number of near-Europe (short-haul international) flights that landed at Heathrow in 2008 was 118,000. Short-haul international flights include: EU-27 countries, Norway, Switzerland, Gibraltar, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Turkey and Former Yugoslavia.

### Humber Bridge: Tolls

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the likely impact of freezing the levels of Humber Bridge tolls on *(a)* businesses, *(b)* jobs and *(c)* inward investment in the Yorkshire and Humber region; [306306]

(2) what his reasons were for rejecting proposed increases in toll charges on the Humber Bridge in 2010. [306309]

**Mr. Khan:** The decision not to accept the 2009 toll increase was taken in the context of the Government doing everything they can to protect communities and businesses from the economic downturn and to assist economic recovery.

We are undertaking a Department for Transport appraisal of the reports commissioned by the relevant local authorities in relation to the economic impact of the Humber Bridge tolls on the region.

### Humberside Road Safety Partnership

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many people the Humberside Road Safety Partnership employed *(a)* in each year since its establishment and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [307253]

**Paul Clark:** This information is not held by the Department for Transport; however, the partnership itself may be able to supply the information requested.

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department provided for the Humberside Road Safety Partnership *(a)* in each year since its inception and *(b)* in 2009-10 to date. [307256]

**Paul Clark:** The Humberside Road Safety partnership has received the following net funding since its inception:

| | *Net funding (£)* |
|---|---:|
| 2003-04 | 2,367,151 |
| 2004-05 | 2,181,397 |
| 2005-06 | 2,406,449 |
| 2006-07 | 2,103,015 |

Further details of this funding can be found on the Department for Transport (DfT) website

www.dft.gov.uk

For 2007-08 onwards the Department has not provided funding directly to the partnership. Instead it provides funding to the local highway authorities within Humberside and they decide about how to spend that funding, including for the Humberside partnership. Information about this funding is also on the DfT website in the form of letters to authorities.

### Lorries

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many miles UK and foreign-registered heavy goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes travelled on UK *(a)* motorways and *(b)* trunk roads in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [306643]

(2) how many miles UK and foreign-registered heavy goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes travelled on all UK roads in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [306644]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: Statistics for miles travelled by UK and Foreign heavy good vehicles are not available for travel on UK roads. Figures are available for travel on roads in Great Britain.

Heavy goods vehicles (over 3.5 tonnes) travelled 17.8 billion vehicle miles on all roads in Great Britain in 2008, of which 7.5 billion vehicle miles were on motorways and 3.8 billion miles were on trunk roads.

In 2008, 3.5 per cent. of all HGV traffic in Great Britain was estimated to be driven by foreign registered vehicles.

The estimated miles travelled by UK and foreign registered heavy goods vehicles and road class is shown in the following table.

*Billion vehicle miles*

| | *Registered heavy goods vehicles* | | |
|---|---:|---:|---:|
| | *UK* | *Foreign* | *Total* |
| All roads | 17.2 | 0.6 | 17.8 |
| Of which: | | | |
| Motorways | 7.2 | 0.3 | 7.5 |
| Trunk roads[1] | 3.7 | 0.1 | 3.8 |

[1] The estimate of foreign registered heavy goods vehicles on trunk roads is calculated from the proportion of foreign registered HGVs on all A roads, which includes principle roads and trunk roads.

*Sources:*

Traffic—National Road Traffic Survey

Registration—Vehicle Excise Duty Evasion survey (June 2008)

### Lorries: Accidents

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* major injuries were caused in 2008-09 by objects from unsecured freight vehicle loads falling off vehicles. [306967]

**Paul Clark:** In 2008 there were two deaths and 22 serious injuries in reported personal injury road accidents involving a dislodged vehicle load in the carriageway. It is not known what types of vehicles the loads came from. This does not include cases where a dislodged vehicle load was in the carriageway as a result of a previous accident.

### Lorries: Safety

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport in what circumstances heavy goods vehicles registered outside the UK are permitted to enter the UK where the weight and axle arrangements are such that they would not be permitted for UK-registered vehicles. [306963]

**Paul Clark:** Heavy goods vehicles registered outside the UK are not permitted to enter the UK with axle or gross weights exceeding those permitted for UK registered vehicles.

## Motor Vehicles: Sales

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* low carbon road vehicles and *(b)* road vehicles were sold in the UK in each of the last five years. [306946]

**Mr. Khan:** Data on new vehicle registrations in the UK are collected by the DVLA (Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency). Table 1 shows the number of new vehicle registrations in the UK from 2004 to 2008. These data are published on the Department for Transport's website which can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/licensing/

*Table 1: Motor vehicles registered for the first time, 2004 to 2008*

*Thousands*

| | *Cars* | *Motorcycles* | *Vans* | *HGVs* | *Buses & coaches* | *Other* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 2,599 | 137 | 341 | 53 | 13 | 42 | 3,185 |
| 2005 | 2,443 | 136 | 330 | 57 | 13 | 43 | 3,021 |
| 2006 | 2,340 | 135 | 328 | 54 | 12 | 43 | 2,914 |
| 2007 | 2,390 | 146 | 340 | 47 | 12 | 61 | 2,997 |
| 2008 | 2,112 | 142 | 291 | 53 | 12 | 63 | 2,672 |

Data on the C0$_2$ emissions from most road vehicles are not available. However, since 2001, DVLA has collected data on the C0$_2$ emissions (gC0$_2$/km) of new cars registered in accordance with EU Decision 1753/2000/EC. There is no precise definition of a low carbon vehicle. Table 2 shows the number of new cars registered in the UK over th[illegible]ve years with C0$_2$ emissions below 120gCO$_2$/km. These cars have significantly lower C0$_2$ emissions than the average for newly registered cars in 2008 of 158gC0$_2$/km and have risen as a share of all newly registered cars from 3 per cent. in 2004 to 11 per cent. in 2008.

*Table 2: Cars registered for the first time by gC0$_2$/km, 2004 to 2008*

*Thousands*

| | *Cars below 120gCO$_2$/km* | *Cars above 120gCO$_2$/km* | *Unknown* | *Total* | *Cars below 120g as a percentage of total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 79 | 2,443 | 77 | 2,599 | 3 |
| 2005 | 75 | 2,311 | 57 | 2,443 | 3 |
| 2006 | 106 | 2,190 | 45 | 2,340 | 5 |
| 2007 | 131 | 2,221 | 38 | 2,390 | 5 |
| 2008 | 227 | 1,857 | 28 | 2,112 | 11 |

## Railways: Fares

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what role his Department has in defining peak and off-peak times in respect of the calculation of rail fares. [303922]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport ensures that the maximum restrictions that may be placed on the validity of regulated off-peak fares are protected through provisions in franchise agreements.

Where commuter fares are regulated, the peak fares are regulated within the maximum restriction set by the Department, but it is possible for the start of the off-peak to be defined by operators as earlier than the maximum.

In London on oyster pay-as-you-go (PAYG) the off-peak has been agreed with Transport for London and is captured in the PAYG agreement.

## Roads: Accidents

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many deaths there were in motor accidents in which a contributory factor was *(a)* consumption of illegal drugs, *(b)* consumption of alcohol and *(c)* tiredness of the driver during December in each year since 1997. [306973]

**Paul Clark:** Information about contributory factors to road accidents has been collected since 2005. The information requested is shown for each year since then in the following table:

*Fatalities in road accidents in December with selected contributory factors reported[1]: GB 2005-2008*

| | *Contributory factor reported in accident* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *(a) Impaired by alcohol* | *(b) Impaired by drugs (illicit or medicinal)* | *(c) Fatigue* |
| 2005 | 38 | 5 | 13 |
| 2006 | 36 | 10 | 7 |
| 2007 | 20 | 5 | 3 |
| 2008 | 16 | 4 | 3 |

[1] Includes accidents where the police attended the scene and reported a contributory factor.

Contributory factors reflect the police officer's opinion at the time of reporting, and where some factors may have contributed to the cause of an accident it may be difficult for a police officer attending the scene after the accident to identify them, so these factors may be underreported. Not all reported road accidents are included in the contributory factor analysis, only those where a police officer attended the scene and at least one contributory factor was reported.

### Roads: Carbon Emissions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average level of carbon dioxide emitted per mile driven was for road traffic in the latest year for which figures are available; what information he holds for benchmarking purposes on such levels in each *(a)* EU and *(b)* G8 country in that year; and if he will make a statement. [306970]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport publishes estimates of road traffic and $CO_2$ emissions from road transport in "Transport Statistics Great Britain". The latest edition can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb

This data can be used to provide an estimate of the average level of carbon dioxide per mile for road traffic. For 2007, the latest year for which data are available, this figure is 379g$CO_2$/mile.

"Transport Statistics Great Britain" does include similar data for road traffic and $CO_2$ emissions for other EU-27 and some G8 countries, but the road traffic and $CO_2$ emissions data are not held for the same year and so a similar calculation of average $CO_2$ per mile can not be made.

### Roads: Freight

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the annual movement of freight by road in billion tonne miles was in each year since 1997. [306966]

**Paul Clark:** Domestic road freight transport performed by GB-registered vehicles is available in Table 4.1 in the publication 'Transport Statistics Great Britain 2009 Edition'. This is available on the DFT website at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/2009edition/

This table does not include the activity of foreign registered vehicles as this is not centrally collected.

A summary is provided as follows:

*Domestic freight transport by road, Great Britain*

| | *Goods moved (billion tonne kilometres)* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 157 |
| 1998 | 160 |
| 1999 | 158 |
| 2000 | 159 |
| 2001 | 159 |
| 2002 | 159 |
| 2003 | 162 |
| 2004 | 163 |
| 2005 | 163 |
| 2006 | 167 |
| 2007 | 173 |
| 2008 | 163 |

### Scientists

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many times the Secretary of State has met *(a)* the Government chief scientific adviser and *(b)* his Department's chief scientific adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303912]

**Chris Mole:** The current Secretary of State met the Government chief scientific adviser on several occasions in his former role as Minister of State through their joint attendance of the Cabinet Committee for Science and Innovation.

The then Secretary of State met the Department's chief scientific adviser on the 28 April 2009. In his former role as Minister of State, the current Secretary of State met the Department's chief scientific adviser five times in the last 12 months in the course of his official duties and has regular informal discussions with him in the margins of meetings and events.

### Severn Bridge: Tolls

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Severn River Crossing plc on toll charges in 2010. [306304]

**Mr. Khan:** While I have not had any discussions with Severn River Crossing plc (SRC) about toll charges for next year, officials for the Department for Transport have. As required under the Severn Bridges Act 1992, it is necessary to review toll levels each year in line with the retail price index. Departmental officials have corresponded with SRC in relation to the calculation of the toll levels following publication of the September RPI figure, as well as the reintroduction of the 17.5 per cent. VAT rate.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the level of toll charges on the Severn Crossing. [306305]

**Mr. Khan:** I have had no discussions with Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) Ministers on the level of tolls on the Severn Crossings. Department for Transport officials do have regular contact with staff from the WAG on various matters concerning the Severn River Crossings as part of normal Highways Agency operations.

### Transport: Autism

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department is developing a strategy for improving access to transport for people with autism. [307320]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport is aware that people with sensory sensitivities or who find it difficult to manage in crowds may also find difficulty in accessing transport. The Department will therefore be contributing to the design and delivery of the Government's Strategy for adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASCs).

The Department has already contributed to the Department of Health's Valuing People Now (VPN) strategy. A key feature for transport within the VPN strategy is travel training which helps to instil confidence in people to use public transport. We are looking at how best to encourage more travel training schemes across the country tailored to meet the needs of a wide range of people, including those with ASCs.

### Transport: Carbon Emissions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what carbon dioxide emissions from the transport sector were in each year since 2000, broken down by mode of transport; and what measures he has in place to reduce those emissions. [306974]

**Mr. Khan:** The transport carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) emissions by mode and year up to 2007 are available in our transport statistics publication (Transport Statistics Great Britain 2009—table 3.7):

*Million tonnes of carbon dioxide*

| *(a) By IPCC source category (NAEI)*[1] | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Transport:* | | | | | | | | |
| *Road transport* | 116.1 | 116.1 | 118.5 | 118.3 | 119.5 | 120 | 120.4 | 121.6 |
| Passenger cars | 77.6 | 77.3 | 78.8 | 77.4 | 78.1 | 77.5 | 77 | 76.8 |
| Light duty vehicles | 11.1 | 10.9 | 11.5 | 11.6 | 12.3 | 13.8 | 14 | 14.5 |
| Buses | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 3 |
| HGVs | 24.2 | 24.7 | 24.8 | 25.7 | 25.4 | 24.8 | 25.4 | 26.3 |
| Mopeds and motorcycles | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| LPG emissions (all vehicles) | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Other (road vehicle engines) | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| *Other transport* | 7.3 | 6.9 | 6.5 | 8.2 | 8.4 | 9.1 | 10.4 | 9.7 |
| Civil aviation | 1.9 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| Railways[2] | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| National navigation | 3.1 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 5.5 | 4.9 |
| Other (aircraft support vehicles) | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Total domestic transport | 123.4 | 123 | 125 | 126.4 | 127.8 | 129.1 | 130.8 | 131.4 |

[1] Source categories relate directly to the vehicle or other piece of equipment producing the emission.

[2] Railway emissions are those from diesel trains only.

*Note:*

Data are presented as the weight of carbon dioxide emitted. UK national emission estimates are updated annually and any developments in methodology are applied retrospectively to earlier years.

*Source:*

AEA Energy and Environment/DECC

The measures set out in "Low Carbon Transport: A Greener Future", (July 2009) the Department's carbon reduction strategy, mean that transport will make a major contribution to meeting the Government's carbon reduction commitments.

There are three central themes to the carbon reduction strategy: supporting a shift to new technologies and fuels; promoting lower carbon choices and using market mechanisms to encourage a shift to lower carbon transport.

In the strategy we made a commitment to publish an implementation plan in spring 2010. The plan will set out the details of our delivery milestones and the mechanisms through which we will monitor progress.

### Waterloo Station

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the platforms formerly used for Eurostar services to Waterloo to come back into use. [300345]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* Network Rail has been instructed by the Office of Rail Regulation to undertake the works necessary for Waterloo international station to be used by domestic train services from December 2011.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### AS Biss: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the Olympic Delivery Authority has made to Mandate/AS Biss in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305137]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by the Minister for the Olympics on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 641W.

### Chief Information Officer

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what pay band his Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307569]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department's current Chief Information Officer (CIO) is a Deputy Director (Senior Civil Service Pay Band 1), is employed on a permanent contract and for 2009--10 is responsible for a budget of £5.2 million.

### Departmental Billing

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008, and if he will make a statement. [307954]

**Mr. Simon:** In October 2008 the Prime Minister announced that all central Government Departments will pay valid invoices within 10 (working) days.

The Department's performance for payment of invoices in each month since November 2008 against this commitment is set out in the table. There was no requirement to gather and maintain data on this basis prior to November 2008. To provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

| | *Number of invoices paid* | *Percentage of invoices paid within 10 working days* |
|---|---|---|
| November 2008 | 454 | 43 |
| December 2008 | 492 | 77 |
| January 2009 | 410 | 80 |
| February 2009 | 434 | 87 |
| March 2009 | 538 | 88 |
| April 2009 | 437 | 87 |
| May 2009 | 355 | 85 |
| June 2009 | 407 | 84 |
| July 2009 | 633 | 91 |
| August 2009 | 506 | 94 |
| September 2009 | 512 | 91 |
| October 2009 | 553 | 95 |
| November 2009 | 562 | 94 |

### Gambling Commission: Standards

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Gambling Commission on increases to its efficiency. [305120]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My most recent meeting with the chair and chief executive of the Gambling Commission was held on 18 November where we discussed a range of issues relating to gambling regulation, including the Gambling Commission's costs and priorities.

### Horserace Totalisator Board

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the monetary value was of funds held by the Tote in unpaid winnings in each of the last 10 years. [307407]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Tote has advised that gross figures for uncollected winnings recorded at the relevant financial year ends are:

| *Financial year* | *Total dividends unclaimed (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2009 | 1,041,131 |
| 2008 | 1,169,293 |
| 2007 | 1,033,620 |
| 2006 | 1,069,281 |
| 2005 | 943,604 |
| 2004 | 968,536 |
| 2003 | 858,503 |
| 2002 | 746,833 |
| 2001 | 667,401 |

For winning Tote pool bets that are uncollected, the liability to pay the winning ticket holder remains with the Tote as a contractual debt for six years (until a claim is time barred under the statute of limitations).

Accounting policies allow these unpaid dividends, less a provision based on the Tote's experience of likely volumes of late claims, to be counted into the Tote pool's yearly profit. This is, in turn, entirely paid through to Racing within the Tote's "Contribution to Racing" that is described in the Tote's annual report and accounts.

### Public Expenditure

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding for *(a)* the arts, *(b)* heritage, *(c)* active leisure and *(d)* museums (i) his Department and (ii) each publicly-funded body within his Department's responsibility has provided for (A) England, (B) the South West Region and (C) each local authority area within the South West Region from 1997 to 2009. [307366]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** My Department does not hold the information in the format requested, however, it holds information on cultural recreational and sporting services by region as shown in the following table. These figures were published by HM Treasury in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis (PESA).

*£ million*

| | *Cultural services* | | *Recreational and sporting services* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | *South West* | *England* | *South West* |
| 2003-04 | 858.2 | 77.7 | 131.7 | 6.8 |
| 2004-05 | 822.0 | 91.4 | 160.7 | 9.4 |
| 2005-06 | 880.0 | 80.6 | 129.3 | 3.9 |
| 2006-07[1] | 1,326.6 | 153.7 | 327.9 | 28.0 |
| 2007-08 | 1,240.5 | 123.0 | 331.9 | 27.1 |

[1] In 2006-07 HM Treasury adopted a functional analysis based on the United Nations Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG). This means that lottery spending is allocated to specific areas of spend when it was previously recorded as a separate line.

Information for previous years is not available on a consistent basis.

### Sports: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of sports centres in Leeds city area. [306978]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Through Sport England, our non-departmental public body with responsibility for community sport, we provide a range of facilities and planning services that are designed to develop strategic planning for sports facilities across England. Sport England ensures that the development of new sports facilities is underpinned by a robust needs and evidence base.

Sport England also aim to improve facility design and modernisation to raise standards across the sector, with a series of detailed design guidance notes.

From 2002-03 to the first six months of 2009-10 the total value of capital awards to Leeds was £731,464. This includes two awards to modernise swimming facilities within Leeds through the Free Swimming programme, and awards made to six projects to develop community clubs.

From 1994-95 to the first six months of 2009/20-10 the total value of capital awards to Leeds was £13,611,140.

### Sports: Obesity

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage participation in sport in order to reduce levels of obesity. [306980]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department is promoting sport for people of all ages and backgrounds, both as something enjoyable and worthwhile in itself and as something that has a vital role to play in tackling obesity. This is why we are working to get one million more people doing more sport, as part of a wider joint target with the Department of Health to get two million more people more physically active.

In addition, through the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People as part of Olympic PSA 22, we are creating a world-class system of PE and sport aiming to offer all young people five hours per week of PE and sport.

The strategy is jointly owned by DCMS and DCSF, and delivered by Sport England (community sport), and the Youth Sport Trust (school sport) through the network of 450 School Sport Partnerships.

In 2002 an estimated one in four children aged five to 16 were doing two hours of high quality PE and school sport each week; following £1.5 billion investment in 2003-08, 90 per cent. of pupils now do at least two hours in a typical week.

The strategy links closely with other cross-Government policies and investment, notably Change4Life, active play, combating childhood obesity, and Positive Activities for Young People.

Another example of our drive to reduce levels of obesity is the free swimming initiative whereby Departments across Government—DCMS, and the DH; Work and Pensions; Children, Schools and Families; and Communities and Local Government—joined together to provide a £140 million funding pot.

Our aim is that this provision, for over 60s and under 16s, should contribute to reducing levels of obesity and bring long-term benefits to health and well-being.

### Television: Licensing

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to enable British troops serving in Afghanistan to claim a rebate on their television licence fee for the time they are serving away from home. [307740]

**Mr. Simon:** Provision exists in the current legislation for refunds in certain circumstances. The interpretation and enforcement of the legislation on television licensing is a matter for the BBC.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Children: Day Care

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children aged *(a)* three and *(b)* four years old are receiving 15 hours a week of free nursery education in Hampstead and Highgate constituency. [304127]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Latest available data as at January 2009 show there are no three and four year old children receiving 15 hours a week of free nursery education in Hampstead and Highgate constituency.

Currently, all three and four year old children are entitled to 12.5 hours of free early education a week for 38 weeks per year. Since September 2009, all local authorities have been delivering an extended offer of 15 funded hours a week to their 25 per cent. most disadvantaged three and four year olds. This is in addition to 34 pathfinder local authorities already delivering an extended offer of 15 hours a week to all children in their area. Camden local authority, in which the Hampstead and Highgate constituency falls, is not one of the pathfinders.

From September 2010 all eligible three and four year old children will be entitled to 15 hours a week free provision over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year offered on a more flexible basis to better meet families' needs.

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places were provided in Leeds West constituency since 1997. [306939]

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare providers are based in Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency. [307162]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information on the number of registered childcare providers and places is not available below local authority level.

### Co-operative Schools

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assistance his Department is providing for the expansion of the co-operative schools network; by what mechanism schools become co-operative schools; and what target he has set for the number of co-operative schools. [307656]

**Mr. Coaker:** A pilot of co-operative trust schools involving up to 100 schools was announced on 11 September 2008. The pilot provides up to an additional £5,000 for each school seeking to become a co-operative trust school (above and beyond the usual £10,000 support funding currently available for schools seeking trust status) to fund consultancy services, training and support to develop the membership model. The pilot will run for two years. The Secretary of State announced an aspiration of up to 200 co-operative schools at the co-operative conference on 11 September 2009.

The pilot is testing a particular model of trust school and any individual or organisation seeking to develop a co-operative membership trust is welcome to participate once we are satisfied of their ability of running a membership model. It is for the Governing Body of a school to decide whether or not trust status is right for the school, however, to access the support funding and advice and guidance on the technical processes around acquiring a trust, schools can submit an expression of interest to the Trust Schools programme. It is also possible for an academy to be established using the co-operative model.

Earlier this year, the Department published "Co-Operative Schools—Making a Difference", which marks the first time we have produced a guide on co-operative schools. It shows the wide range of ways that schools can embed co-operative values into the ethos through a range of schools models and offers practical advice on how schools can do this, and the support available.

The Department is working with the Co-operative Group and college to set up a network to support and develop co-operative trust schools, academies and other educational institutions and is providing £25,000 of funding to help establish the new network.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Janet Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the Minister of State for Further Education plans to reply to the letters of 7 August 2009 from the Director General of the Alliance against intellectual property theft and the Chief Executive of the Trading Standards Institute on intellectual property. [303092]

**Kevin Brennan:** I responded on 8 December. I apologise for the delay.

### Departmental Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302729]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Secretary of State last travelled by taxi in the course of his official duties on 8 December. We do not have any records of travel by bus in the course of official duties, but his last journey by London underground in the course of official duties was on 26 November.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301843]

**Ann McKechin:** We do not hold the information requested.

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what redesigns of websites held by his Department have taken place since 27 June 2007; what the cost to the public purse was of each redesign; and when each redesign was conducted. [305953]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office and the Office of the Advocate-General jointly tendered for the redevelopment of both their websites in 2008. We went through a competitive tendering process following the principles of Government procurement. The cost for both websites was £12,880 plus VAT.

The redevelopment of the sites includes a comprehensive in-house content management system which represents considerable value for money and costs savings for both offices, both now and in the future.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Crown Prosecution Service

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Crown Prosecution Service in *(a)* London and *(b)* each of its 42 regional offices spent on expenses for witnesses in cases that were adjourned or abandoned in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [305415]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service does not maintain records of the value of witness expense payments by reference to case outcomes. It is unable to say, therefore, how much it spent on witness expenses in relation to cases which were subsequently adjourned or abandoned.

The CPS can report on total expenditure on ordinary professional and foreign witness expenses by CPS area for each of the last five financial years, and separately on the proportion of cracked and ineffective trials by CPS Area for each of the last five years.

Cracked and ineffective trials are cases listed by the court for trial in which witnesses are warned to attend court, but are not required to give evidence because the defendant pleaded guilty, or the prosecution offered no evidence, (cracked trial); or the trial had to be adjourned to another day, (ineffective trial).

Comparative 42 area and national CPS data showing witness expenses payments and cracked and ineffective trials can be found at tables A, B and C:

*Annex A: Witness payments by area 2004-05 to 2008-09*

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 161,733 | 154,790 | 152,826 | 154,381 | 151,857 |
| Bedfordshire | 62,688 | 60,767 | 59,834 | 60,882 | 58,944 |
| Cambridgeshire | 57,098 | 91,647 | 73,968 | 68,945 | 76,857 |
| Cheshire | 75,923 | 89,850 | 116,899 | 115,003 | 74,672 |
| Cleveland | 51,912 | 58,785 | 73,607 | 65,072 | 66,873 |
| Cumbria | 86,839 | 94,544 | 74,918 | 65,186 | 88,433 |
| Derbyshire | 82,518 | 96,680 | 96,556 | 97,859 | 96,896 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 182,357 | 179,281 | 182,240 | 186,434 | 181,038 |
| Dorset | 81,685 | 115,535 | 109,392 | 93,680 | 101,403 |
| Durham | 54,782 | 57,663 | 59,852 | 49,282 | 64,122 |
| Dyfed Powys | 88,244 | 53,425 | 61,911 | 55,578 | 68,958 |
| Essex | 164,399 | 178,360 | 173,793 | 164,068 | 162,462 |
| Gloucestershire | 35,226 | 50,948 | 63,573 | 65,438 | 56,492 |

*Annex A: Witness payments by area 2004-05 to 2008-09*

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Greater Manchester | 340,489 | 336,375 | 309,436 | 347,801 | 280,822 |
| Gwent | 57,216 | 75,472 | 77,198 | 62,395 | 67,611 |
| Hampshire & IOW | 270,647 | 355,228 | 262,519 | 248,398 | 231,836 |
| Hertfordshire | 99,348 | 112,982 | 118,130 | 130,663 | 110,828 |
| Humberside | 91,940 | 99,591 | 99,345 | 91,262 | 92,252 |
| Kent | 161,322 | 178,723 | 188,318 | 204,977 | 204,224 |
| Lancashire | 171,606 | 265,853 | 269,389 | 238,051 | 197,133 |
| Leicestershire | 81,300 | 83,409 | 102,085 | 107,644 | 117,610 |
| Lincolnshire | 64,004 | 59,369 | 75,120 | 60,090 | 75,467 |
| Merseyside | 225,958 | 183,951 | 163,985 | 136,265 | 136,983 |
| London | 1,289,313 | 1,195,844 | 1,155,726 | 968,402 | 1,148,358 |
| Norfolk | 72,125 | 70,500 | 88,715 | 67,385 | 70,851 |
| Northamptonshire | 64,726 | 61,874 | 74,671 | 64,166 | 58,550 |
| Northumbria | 125,870 | 125,049 | 126,764 | 122,639 | 141,545 |
| North Wales | 77,416 | 70,965 | 70,080 | 73,952 | 77,180 |
| North Yorkshire | 75,433 | 99,594 | 107,389 | 101,672 | 100,909 |
| Nottinghamshire | 87,941 | 102,373 | 67,833 | 72,448 | 74,949 |
| South Wales | 124,533 | 143,881 | 175,757 | 171,414 | 128,652 |
| South Yorkshire | 117,978 | 118,414 | 116,617 | 133,689 | 129,768 |
| Staffordshire | 113,829 | 115,183 | 107,580 | 134,750 | 122,413 |
| Suffolk | 62,700 | 55,556 | 71,265 | 56,938 | 48,535 |
| Surrey | 91,695 | 95,492 | 124,880 | 107,458 | 111,429 |
| Sussex | 238,724 | 233,338 | 235,824 | 236,421 | 239,283 |
| Thames Valley | 185,776 | 184,214 | 189,134 | 217,242 | 207,176 |
| Warwickshire | 20,466 | 32,222 | 28,406 | 27,779 | 28,370 |
| West Mercia | 124,567 | 145,649 | 130,319 | 127,409 | 117,289 |
| West Midlands | 336,274 | 409,112 | 315,133 | 324,829 | 330,930 |
| West Yorkshire | 245,659 | 228,092 | 189,708 | 213,611 | 230,751 |
| Wiltshire | 41,145 | 43,497 | 54,600 | 52,592 | 47,896 |
| Organised Crime Division | 52,777 | 57,568 | 35,213 | 25,144 | 40,672 |
| Special Crime Division | 51,325 | 111,152 | 40,122 | 83,901 | 55,576 |
| Counter Terrorism Division | 23,316 | 48,683 | 19,495 | 34,982 | 37,269 |
| Fraud Prosecution Division | — | 427 | 13,212 | 49,990 | 81,550 |
| Total | 6,372,823 | 6,853,508 | 6,520,265 | 6,339,817 | 6,391,608 |

*Table B: Crown court—cracked and ineffective trials*

| | *2004-05* | | | | *2005-06* | | | | *2006-07* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* |
| Avon and Somerset | 312 | 35 | 148 | 16 | 116 | 20 | 61 | 10 | 191 | 29 | 100 | 17 |
| Bedfordshire | 226 | 43 | 100 | 19 | 79 | 26 | 29 | 10 | 162 | 38 | 64 | 15 |
| Cambridgeshire | 125 | 34 | 47 | 13 | 89 | 26 | 35 | 10 | 127 | 32 | 53 | 13 |
| Cheshire | 184 | 35 | 78 | 15 | 125 | 26 | 46 | 10 | 210 | 35 | 78 | 13 |
| Cleveland | 504 | 53 | 156 | 17 | 312 | 48 | 105 | 16 | 557 | 58 | 137 | 14 |
| Cumbria | 108 | 34 | 51 | 16 | 71 | 30 | 28 | 12 | 135 | 43 | 30 | 12 |
| Derbyshire | 275 | 45 | 123 | 20 | 151 | 38 | 66 | 17 | 204 | 45 | 46 | 10 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 171 | 31 | 64 | 11 | 79 | 20 | 27 | 7 | 122 | 26 | 40 | 9 |
| Dorset | 57 | 22 | 22 | 8 | 38 | 14 | 13 | 5 | 93 | 25 | 17 | 5 |
| Durham | 158 | 51 | 38 | 12 | 144 | 48 | 28 | 9 | 203 | 52 | 54 | 14 |
| Dyfed Powys | 12 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 15 | 7 | 4 |
| Essex | 349 | 32 | 243 | 22 | 190 | 26 | 63 | 9 | 331 | 38 | 101 | 12 |
| Gloucestershire | 63 | 30 | 16 | 10 | 33 | 23 | 16 | 11 | 93 | 32 | 26 | 16 |
| Greater Manchester | 1,867 | 52 | 545 | 15 | 845 | 41 | 219 | 11 | 1,283 | 49 | 334 | 13 |
| Gwent | 87 | 28 | 18 | 6 | — | 0 | — | 0 | — | 0 | — | 0 |
| Hampshire and IOW | 436 | 31 | 222 | 16 | 209 | 19 | 111 | 10 | 322 | 31 | 116 | 11 |
| Hertfordshire | 138 | 26 | 77 | 15 | 111 | 22 | 45 | 9 | 133 | 29 | 60 | 13 |
| Humberside | 407 | 58 | 78 | 11 | 267 | 54 | 26 | 5 | 375 | 63 | 36 | 7 |
| Kent | 307 | 29 | 193 | 18 | 165 | 20 | 66 | 8 | 284 | 30 | 155 | 16 |

*Table B: Crown court—cracked and ineffective trials*

| | 2004-05 | | | | 2005-06 | | | | 2006-07 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* |
| Lancashire | 664 | 48 | 234 | 18 | 333 | 38 | 104 | 12 | 609 | 51 | 178 | 15 |
| Leicestershire | 236 | 40 | 113 | 19 | 169 | 35 | 56 | 12 | 263 | 46 | 84 | 15 |
| Lincolnshire | 117 | 40 | 39 | 13 | 52 | 26 | 23 | 12 | 60 | 30 | 14 | 7 |
| London | 2,790 | 27 | 1,737 | 17 | 1,407 | 19 | 732 | 10 | 2,564 | 29 | 1,202 | 13 |
| Merseyside | 852 | 47 | 245 | 14 | 411 | 35 | 94 | 8 | 800 | 49 | 201 | 12 |
| Norfolk | 99 | 33 | 38 | 13 | 69 | 28 | 27 | 11 | 108 | 34 | 33 | 10 |
| Northamptonshire | 115 | 39 | 29 | 10 | 62 | 32 | 6 | 3 | 76 | 35 | 9 | 4 |
| Northumbria | 612 | 55 | 180 | 16 | 392 | 50 | 100 | 13 | 661 | 58 | 185 | 16 |
| North Wales | 68 | 32 | 25 | 12 | 91 | 23 | 14 | 6 | 125 | 40 | 23 | 7 |
| North Yorkshire | 127 | 36 | 65 | 19 | 100 | 33 | 26 | 9 | 141 | 41 | 31 | 9 |
| Nottinghamshire | 237 | 39 | 86 | 14 | 169 | 35 | 46 | 9 | 247 | 46 | 49 | 9 |
| South Wales | 566 | 43 | 148 | 13 | 283 | 31 | 77 | 10 | 399 | 41 | 130 | 13 |
| South Yorkshire | 625 | 54 | 152 | 13 | 336 | 46 | 71 | 10 | 557 | 60 | 97 | 10 |
| Staffordshire | 307 | 50 | 62 | 10 | 146 | 35 | 34 | 8 | 250 | 43 | 64 | 11 |
| Suffolk | 66 | 25 | 25 | 9 | 31 | 16 | 7 | 4 | 75 | 25 | 21 | 7 |
| Surrey | 95 | 29 | 57 | 17 | 56 | 21 | 27 | 10 | 97 | 27 | 42 | 12 |
| Sussex | 331 | 35 | 125 | 13 | 161 | 23 | 51 | 7 | 361 | 35 | 139 | 13 |
| Thames Valley | 244 | 28 | 107 | 12 | 152 | 20 | 80 | 11 | 307 | 31 | 127 | 13 |
| Warwickshire | 103 | 66 | 56 | 20 | 74 | 53 | 15 | 11 | 107 | 58 | 33 | 18 |
| West Mercia | 238 | 45 | 74 | 14 | 171 | 40 | 32 | 8 | 200 | 43 | 51 | 11 |
| West Midlands | 1,544 | 45 | 640 | 19 | 564 | 33 | 138 | 8 | 1,080 | 47 | 193 | 8 |
| West Yorkshire | 1,325 | 50 | 427 | 16 | 461 | 40 | 113 | 10 | 641 | 50 | 179 | 14 |
| Wiltshire | 57 | 36 | 11 | 7 | 23 | 14 | 17 | 10 | 78 | 38 | 20 | 10 |
| England and Wales | 17,224 | 39 | 6,923 | 16 | 8,659 | 29 | 2,873 | 10 | 14,616 | 39 | 4,581 | 12 |

| | 2007-08 | | | | 2008-09 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* |
| Avon and Somerset | 211 | 31 | 94 | 14 | 237 | 36 | 96 | 15 |
| Bedfordshire | 140 | 30 | 64 | 14 | 105 | 34 | 29 | 9 |
| Cambridgeshire | 147 | 35 | 38 | 9 | 204 | 35 | 77 | 13 |
| Cheshire | 106 | 40 | 31 | 12 | 79 | 37 | 17 | 8 |
| Cleveland | 532 | 57 | 128 | 14 | 572 | 59 | 111 | 11 |
| Cumbria | 140 | 56 | 31 | 12 | 133 | 47 | 44 | 16 |
| Derbyshire | 205 | 40 | 50 | 14 | 200 | 46 | 52 | 12 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 130 | 28 | 39 | 8 | 150 | 33 | 25 | 6 |
| Dorset | 82 | 33 | 14 | 6 | 82 | 33 | 12 | 5 |
| Durham | 236 | 64 | 49 | 13 | 203 | 69 | 32 | 11 |
| Dyfed Powys | 51 | 32 | 8 | 5 | 33 | 35 | 5 | 5 |
| Essex | 374 | 40 | 99 | 10 | 278 | 38 | 61 | 8 |
| Gloucestershire | 66 | 30 | 16 | 9 | 63 | 36 | 27 | 15 |
| Greater Manchester | 1,274 | 52 | 200 | 11 | 1,038 | 52 | 195 | 10 |
| Gwent | — | 0 | — | 0 | — | 0 | — | 0 |
| Hampshire and IOW | 363 | 34 | 110 | 10 | 341 | 36 | 84 | 9 |
| Hertfordshire | 163 | 35 | 90 | 17 | 102 | 30 | 54 | 16 |
| Humberside | 369 | 60 | 52 | 8 | 364 | 65 | 30 | 5 |
| Kent | 321 | 32 | 154 | 15 | 180 | 26 | 97 | 14 |
| Lancashire | 514 | 53 | 143 | 15 | 548 | 55 | 143 | 14 |
| Leicestershire | 229 | 46 | 75 | 16 | 196 | 44 | 75 | 17 |
| Lincolnshire | 76 | 36 | 31 | 15 | 80 | 39 | 22 | 11 |
| London | 2,916 | 32 | 1,264 | 14 | 2,655 | 30 | 1,347 | 15 |
| Merseyside | 760 | 51 | 139 | 9 | 668 | 52 | 113 | 9 |
| Norfolk | 111 | 43 | 16 | 6 | 94 | 43 | 22 | 10 |
| Northamptonshire | 111 | 46 | 11 | 5 | 110 | 51 | 8 | 4 |
| Northumbria | 743 | 66 | 152 | 13 | 611 | 64 | 112 | 12 |
| North Wales | 99 | 36 | 20 | 7 | 74 | 33 | 11 | 5 |
| North Yorkshire | 151 | 53 | 26 | 9 | 103 | 42 | 39 | 16 |

| | 2007-08 | | | | 2008-09 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* |
| Nottinghamshire | 250 | 46 | 66 | 12 | 195 | 42 | 54 | 12 |
| South Wales | 468 | 41 | 91 | 8 | 518 | 43 | 104 | 9 |
| South Yorkshire | 550 | 60 | 97 | 11 | 512 | 60 | 106 | 12 |
| Staffordshire | 239 | 45 | 50 | 9 | 188 | 40 | 41 | 9 |
| Suffolk | 77 | 30 | 19 | 7 | 68 | 29 | 23 | 10 |
| Surrey | 90 | 27 | 43 | 13 | 80 | 27 | 42 | 14 |
| Sussex | 379 | 39 | 153 | 16 | 357 | 37 | 135 | 14 |
| Thames Valley | 318 | 32 | 125 | 13 | 341 | 34 | 153 | 15 |
| Warwickshire | 99 | 52 | 13 | 7 | 71 | 42 | 15 | 9 |
| West Mercia | 183 | 47 | 24 | 6 | 139 | 43 | 19 | 6 |
| West Midlands | 903 | 45 | 171 | 8 | 717 | 42 | 129 | 8 |
| West Yorkshire | 725 | 49 | 221 | 15 | 785 | 48 | 233 | 14 |
| Wiltshire | 61 | 38 | 17 | 11 | 78 | 41 | 16 | 8 |
| England and Wales | 14,988 | 42 | 4,292 | 12 | 13,552 | 41 | 4,010 | 12 |

*Table C. Magistrates courts—cracked and ineffective trials*

| | 2004-05 | | | | 2005-06 | | | | 2006-07 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* |
| Avon and Somerset | 815 | 28 | 476 | 16 | 951 | 31 | 508 | 17 | 870 | 30 | 379 | 13 |
| Bedfordshire | 761 | 37 | 676 | 33 | 790 | 33 | 600 | 25 | 629 | 30 | 432 | 21 |
| Cambridgeshire | 493 | 36 | 230 | 17 | 576 | 35 | 263 | 16 | 642 | 37 | 260 | 15 |
| Cheshire | 1,061 | 40 | 474 | 18 | 1,241 | 40 | 581 | 19 | 1,625 | 42 | 630 | 16 |
| Cleveland | 943 | 39 | 514 | 21 | 821 | 36 | 401 | 17 | 847 | 36 | 450 | 19 |
| Cumbria | 640 | 41 | 256 | 16 | 645 | 39 | 289 | 17 | 624 | 37 | 281 | 17 |
| Derbyshire | 1,548 | 38 | 1,123 | 27 | 1,620 | 37 | 1,293 | 29 | 1,427 | 37 | 847 | 22 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 870 | 29 | 592 | 20 | 789 | 27 | 584 | 20 | 729 | 31 | 398 | 17 |
| Dorset | 466 | 34 | 292 | 21 | 503 | 30 | 355 | 22 | 576 | 31 | 445 | 24 |
| Durham | 476 | 31 | 411 | 27 | 532 | 35 | 332 | 22 | 677 | 43 | 275 | 18 |
| Dyfed Powys | 307 | 28 | 192 | 17 | 227 | 22 | 141 | 14 | 274 | 22 | 157 | 13 |
| Essex | 1,336 | 35 | 805 | 21 | 1,343 | 32 | 928 | 22 | 1,400 | 32 | 933 | 21 |
| Gloucestershire | 315 | 37 | 201 | 24 | 387 | 35 | 253 | 23 | 623 | 33 | 511 | 27 |
| Greater Manchester | 5,475 | 43 | 2,582 | 20 | 5,044 | 41 | 2,224 | 18 | 4,765 | 42 | 1,766 | 15 |
| Gwent | 683 | 38 | 432 | 24 | 597 | 32 | 377 | 20 | 616 | 35 | 416 | 24 |
| Hampshire and IOW | 2,570 | 35 | 1,917 | 26 | 1,979 | 34 | 1,225 | 21 | 1,594 | 33 | 874 | 18 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,481 | 39 | 922 | 24 | 2,022 | 38 | 1,285 | 24 | 1,692 | 33 | 1,170 | 23 |
| Humberside | 1,059 | 44 | 464 | 19 | 857 | 41 | 331 | 16 | 876 | 43 | 303 | 15 |
| Kent | 1,486 | 31 | 1,111 | 24 | 1,518 | 31 | 1,085 | 22 | 1,580 | 32 | 1,065 | 22 |
| Lancashire | 2,415 | 46 | 1,283 | 24 | 2,777 | 44 | 1,238 | 20 | 3,334 | 45 | 1,430 | 19 |
| Leicestershire | 1,424 | 41 | 906 | 26 | 1,539 | 43 | 838 | 24 | 1,582 | 45 | 728 | 21 |
| Lincolnshire | 630 | 35 | 424 | 24 | 672 | 36 | 410 | 22 | 618 | 33 | 335 | 18 |
| London | 12,053 | 32 | 11,922 | 32 | 11,898 | 34 | 8,628 | 25 | 11,778 | 36 | 6,508 | 20 |
| Merseyside | 3,362 | 42 | 2,170 | 27 | 2,770 | 43 | 1,205 | 19 | 2,341 | 47 | 837 | 17 |
| Norfolk | 508 | 32 | 310 | 19 | 503 | 30 | 276 | 17 | 573 | 30 | 268 | 14 |
| Northamptonshire | 740 | 35 | 443 | 21 | 778 | 38 | 255 | 13 | 938 | 36 | 318 | 13 |
| Northumbria | 2,369 | 38 | 1,556 | 25 | 2,236 | 36 | 1,455 | 24 | 2,677 | 42 | 1,382 | 22 |
| North Wales | 877 | 37 | 411 | 17 | 908 | 37 | 312 | 13 | 871 | 37 | 327 | 14 |
| North Yorkshire | 599 | 43 | 254 | 18 | 645 | 40 | 306 | 19 | 465 | 35 | 215 | 16 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,980 | 40 | 1,306 | 26 | 1,771 | 36 | 1,322 | 27 | 1,518 | 38 | 969 | 24 |
| South Wales | 2,429 | 45 | 1,014 | 19 | 2,247 | 44 | 772 | 15 | 1,755 | 43 | 557 | 13 |
| South Yorkshire | 1,114 | 33 | 802 | 24 | 1,040 | 30 | 577 | 17 | 1,233 | 35 | 534 | 15 |
| Staffordshire | 1,708 | 40 | 849 | 20 | 1,427 | 39 | 655 | 18 | 1,469 | 35 | 872 | 21 |
| Suffolk | 368 | 30 | 184 | 15 | 303 | 27 | 132 | 12 | 256 | 26 | 104 | 10 |
| Surrey | 627 | 30 | 465 | 22 | 604 | 29 | 393 | 19 | 688 | 30 | 452 | 20 |
| Sussex | 1,566 | 35 | 1,162 | 26 | 1,160 | 33 | 637 | 18 | 1,493 | 34 | 777 | 18 |
| Thames Valley | 1,297 | 39 | 669 | 20 | 1,859 | 41 | 875 | 19 | 2,075 | 35 | 1,017 | 17 |

*Table C: Magistrates courts—cracked and ineffective trials*

| | 2004-05 | | | | 2005-06 | | | | 2006-07 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* |
| Warwickshire | 102 | 28 | 35 | 10 | 108 | 27 | 38 | 10 | 100 | 29 | 46 | 14 |
| West Mercia | 1,826 | 41 | 1,183 | 26 | 1,790 | 37 | 1,161 | 24 | 1,479 | 38 | 641 | 16 |
| West Midlands | 6,339 | 41 | 3,790 | 24 | 5,059 | 39 | 2,827 | 22 | 4,980 | 42 | 2,388 | 20 |
| West Yorkshire | 3,044 | 39 | 2,062 | 27 | 2,680 | 40 | 1,489 | 22 | 2,484 | 40 | 1,407 | 22 |
| Wiltshire | 429 | 32 | 237 | 18 | 326 | 31 | 206 | 20 | 476 | 36 | 290 | 22 |
| England and Wales | 70,591 | 37 | 47,107 | 25 | 67,542 | 37 | 39,062 | 21 | 67,249 | 37 | 34,024 | 19 |

| | 2007-08 | | | | 2008-09 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* | *Cracked* | *%* | *Ineffective* | *%* |
| Avon and Somerset | 996 | 32 | 433 | 14 | 873 | 33 | 370 | 14 |
| Bedfordshire | 591 | 28 | 425 | 20 | 627 | 28 | 566 | 25 |
| Cambridgeshire | 667 | 36 | 242 | 13 | 609 | 39 | 204 | 13 |
| Cheshire | 1,480 | 45 | 327 | 10 | 1,348 | 44 | 293 | 10 |
| Cleveland | 1,148 | 42 | 594 | 22 | 1,110 | 43 | 514 | 20 |
| Cumbria | 737 | 41 | 313 | 17 | 684 | 39 | 253 | 14 |
| Derbyshire | 1,723 | 37 | 1,093 | 24 | 1,684 | 41 | 876 | 21 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 942 | 35 | 443 | 17 | [illegible] | 36 | 430 | 17 |
| Dorset | 877 | 34 | 688 | 27 | 605 | 27 | 552 | 25 |
| Durham | 839 | 47 | 314 | 18 | 696 | 46 | 244 | 16 |
| Dyfed Powys | 253 | 22 | 116 | 10 | 273 | 28 | 137 | 14 |
| Essex | 1,530 | 34 | 944 | 21 | 1,519 | 34 | 977 | 22 |
| Gloucestershire | 645 | 37 | 486 | 28 | 632 | 40 | 419 | 27 |
| Greater Manchester | 4,878 | 42 | 1,690 | 15 | 3,992 | 38 | 1,600 | 15 |
| Gwent | 990 | 39 | 526 | 21 | 644 | 41 | 370 | 24 |
| Hampshire and IOW | 2,012 | 34 | 1,065 | 18 | 1,971 | 35 | 1,125 | 20 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,425 | 32 | 1,025 | 23 | 1,347 | 32 | 969 | 23 |
| Humberside | 1,059 | 49 | 319 | 15 | 1,130 | 48 | 326 | 14 |
| Kent | 1,895 | 35 | 1,103 | 20 | 1,894 | 39 | 952 | 19 |
| Lancashire | 3,275 | 48 | 1,156 | 17 | 3,080 | 46 | 1,060 | 16 |
| Leicestershire | 1,755 | 43 | 843 | 21 | 1,261 | 42 | 574 | 19 |
| Lincolnshire | 598 | 35 | 319 | 19 | 571 | 36 | 324 | 21 |
| London | 11,578 | 36 | 5,761 | 18 | 11,109 | 35 | 5,704 | 18 |
| Merseyside | 2,717 | 50 | 778 | 14 | 2,923 | 49 | 874 | 15 |
| Norfolk | 673 | 33 | 289 | 14 | 529 | 31 | 280 | 16 |
| Northamptonshire | 805 | 37 | 282 | 13 | 658 | 37 | 258 | 14 |
| Northumbria | 3,515 | 46 | 1,550 | 20 | 3,083 | 42 | 1,482 | 20 |
| North Wales | 826 | 39 | 308 | 14 | 786 | 36 | 297 | 14 |
| North Yorkshire | 568 | 38 | 273 | 18 | 638 | 39 | 258 | 16 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,759 | 35 | 1,185 | 24 | 1,376 | 34 | 989 | 24 |
| South Wales | 1,997 | 45 | 576 | 13 | 2,046 | 47 | 651 | 15 |
| South Yorkshire | 1,508 | 38 | 719 | 18 | 1,772 | 38 | 792 | 17 |
| Staffordshire | 1,645 | 36 | 938 | 21 | 1,237 | 40 | 538 | 17 |
| Suffolk | 207 | 24 | 77 | 9 | 285 | 29 | 109 | 11 |
| Surrey | 840 | 32 | 489 | 18 | 832 | 32 | 417 | 16 |
| Sussex | 1,623 | 34 | 923 | 19 | 1,228 | 31 | 889 | 22 |
| Thames Valley | 2,042 | 31 | 1,258 | 19 | 2,045 | 34 | 1,189 | 20 |
| Warwickshire | 129 | 28 | 60 | 13 | 144 | 30 | 71 | 15 |
| West Mercia | 1,627 | 37 | 808 | 18 | 1,332 | 34 | 751 | 19 |
| West Midlands | 5,421 | 44 | 2,351 | 19 | 5,641 | 44 | 2,661 | 21 |
| West Yorkshire | 2,791 | 41 | 1,476 | 22 | 2,779 | 40 | 1,701 | 25 |
| Wiltshire | 564 | 34 | 276 | 17 | 534 | 32 | 381 | 23 |
| England and Wales | 73,150 | 38 | 34,841 | 18 | 68,427 | 38 | 33,427 | 19 |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases were prosecuted by each of the 42 regional Crown Prosecution Service offices in each of the last five years. [305443]

**The Solicitor-General:** The following tables show the number of defendants prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service's 42 Areas in the five years ending March 2009. The table also shows the number and proportion of defendants who were convicted, and the number and proportion whose case resulted in an unsuccessful outcome.

*CPS Magistrates Court Case Volumes and Outcomes by Area 2004-05 to 2008-09*

| | 2004-05 | | | | | 2005-06 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Convictions | | Unsuccessful | | | Convictions | | Unsuccessful | | |
| | Vol | % | Vol | % | Total | Vol | % | Vol | % | Total |
| 42 Areas | 928,195 | 80.6 | 223,709 | 19.4 | 1,151,904 | 881,861 | 82.5 | 186,884 | 17.5 | 1,068,745 |
| P01 - Avon & Somerset | 24,405 | 80.1 | 6,054 | 19.9 | 30,459 | 23,163 | 82.2 | 5,021 | 17.8 | 28,184 |
| P02 - Bedfordshire | 8,755 | 74.5 | 2,995 | 25.5 | 11,750 | 8,407 | 77.9 | 2,381 | 22.1 | 10,788 |
| P03 - Cambridgeshire | 8,100 | 85.6 | 1,360 | 14.4 | 9,460 | 9,868 | 84.6 | 1,792 | 15.4 | 11,660 |
| P04 - Cheshire | 14,617 | 87.2 | 2,150 | 12.8 | 16,767 | 14,317 | 86.2 | 2,297 | 13.8 | 16,614 |
| P06 - Cleveland | 13,783 | 80.4 | 3,367 | 19.6 | 17,150 | 10,015 | 84.3 | 1,864 | 15.7 | 11,879 |
| P07 - Cumbria | 10,344 | 85.7 | 1,730 | 14.3 | 12,074 | 11,963 | 86.5 | 1,870 | 13.5 | 13,833 |
| P08 - Derbyshire | 15,166 | 85.9 | 2,489 | 14.1 | 17,655 | 12,552 | 81.2 | 2,914 | 18.8 | 15,466 |
| P09 - Devon & Cornwall | 19,345 | 84.5 | 3,547 | 15.5 | 22,892 | 18,851 | 83.2 | 3,815 | 16.8 | 22,666 |
| P10 - Dorset | 10,262 | 82.3 | 2,212 | 17.7 | 12,474 | 10,502 | 85.1 | 1,843 | 14.9 | 12,345 |
| P12 - Dyfed Powys | 8,835 | 83.8 | 1,703 | 16.2 | 10,538 | 9,802 | 84.5 | 1,793 | 15.5 | 11,595 |
| P13 - Essex | 20,209 | 83.3 | 4,065 | 16.7 | 24,274 | 21,329 | 82.2 | 4,629 | 17.8 | 25,958 |
| P14 - Gloucestershire | 6,726 | 80.1 | 1,667 | 19.9 | 8,393 | 6,928 | 80.2 | 1,706 | 19.8 | 8,634 |
| P15 - Greater Manchester | 57,582 | 82.0 | 12,621 | 18.0 | 70,203 | 59,184 | 83.8 | 11,411 | 16.2 | 70,595 |
| P16 - Gwent | 12,573 | 80.0 | 3,153 | 20.0 | 15,726 | 10,230 | 85.3 | 1,765 | 14.7 | 11,995 |
| P17 - Hampshire | 30,021 | 83.2 | 6,049 | 16.8 | 36,070 | 25,606 | 85.0 | 4,527 | 15.0 | 30,133 |
| P18 - Hertfordshire | 14,375 | 80.8 | 3,412 | 19.2 | 17,787 | 15,182 | 80.0 | 3,803 | 20.0 | 18,985 |
| P19 - Humberside | 17,767 | 87.1 | 2,627 | 12.9 | 20,394 | 14,711 | 88.4 | 1,921 | 11.6 | 16,632 |
| P20 - Kent | 29,646 | 85.5 | 5,043 | 14.5 | 34,689 | 23,595 | 86.6 | 3,649 | 13.4 | 27,244 |
| P21 - Lancashire | 25,449 | 83.6 | 5,008 | 16.4 | 30,457 | 29,767 | 83.8 | 5,737 | 16.2 | 35,504 |
| P22 - Leicestershire | 17,481 | 81.4 | 4,001 | 18.6 | 21,482 | 14,136 | 78.2 | 3,942 | 21.8 | 18,078 |
| P23 - Lincolnshire | 16,117 | 86.6 | 2,486 | 13.4 | 18,603 | 13,277 | 86.1 | 2,137 | 13.9 | 15,414 |
| P25 - London | 118,174 | 74.1 | 41,313 | 25.9 | 159,487 | 112,552 | 79.0 | 29,897 | 21.0 | 142,449 |
| P24 - Merseyside | 28,919 | 80.1 | 7,175 | 19.9 | 36,094 | 22,239 | 81.4 | 5,091 | 18.6 | 27,330 |
| P24 - Merseyside | 11,862 | 83.0 | 2,421 | 17.0 | 14,283 | 11,681 | 84.1 | 2,203 | 15.9 | 13,884 |
| P27 - Northamptonshire. | 11,259 | 85.4 | 1,919 | 14.6 | 13,178 | 9,083 | 78.3 | 2,513 | 21.7 | 11,596 |
| P28 - Northumbria | 34,457 | 84.6 | 6,290 | 15.4 | 40,747 | 36,332 | 87.0 | 5,449 | 13.0 | 41,781 |
| P29 - North Wales | 13,577 | 86.2 | 2,175 | 13.8 | 15,752 | 12,880 | 87.9 | 1,770 | 12.1 | 14,650 |
| P30 - North Yorkshire | 9,551 | 82.5 | 2,027 | 17.5 | 11,578 | 11,152 | 82.7 | 2,334 | 17.3 | 13,486 |
| P31 - Nottinghamshire | 19,732 | 84.5 | 3,607 | 15.5 | 23,339 | 19,381 | 83.8 | 3,757 | 16.2 | 23,138 |
| P32 - South Wales | 34,846 | 78.7 | 9,434 | 21.3 | 44,280 | 28,102 | 78.6 | 7,658 | 21.4 | 35,760 |
| P33 - South Yorkshire | 24,770 | 82.8 | 5,134 | 17.2 | 29,904 | 23,595 | 84.1 | 4,472 | 15.9 | 28,067 |
| P34 - Staffordshire | 20,472 | 78.0 | 5,762 | 22.0 | 26,234 | 19,350 | 81.5 | 4,395 | 18.5 | 23,745 |
| P35 - Suffolk | 14,186 | 83.5 | 2,807 | 16.5 | 16,993 | 14,166 | 84.3 | 2,647 | 15.7 | 16,813 |
| P36 - Surrey | 8,835 | 79.4 | 2,298 | 20.6 | 11,133 | 8,382 | 82.2 | 1,810 | 17.8 | 10,192 |
| P37 - Sussex | 17,035 | 80.6 | 4,112 | 19.4 | 21,147 | 18,092 | 82.5 | 3,830 | 17.5 | 21,922 |
| P38 - Thames Valley | 30,802 | 74.6 | 10,496 | 25.4 | 41,298 | 31,205 | 78.1 | 8,749 | 21.9 | 39,954 |
| P39 - Warwickshire | 8,066 | 90.4 | 852 | 9.6 | 8,918 | 7,266 | 91.4 | 682 | 8.6 | 7,948 |
| P40 - West Mercia | 19,888 | 81.5 | 4,517 | 18.5 | 24,405 | 20,323 | 82.0 | 4,467 | 18.0 | 24,790 |
| P41 - West Midlands | 55,537 | 77.3 | 16,295 | 22.7 | 71,832 | 49,429 | 83.3 | 9,905 | 16.7 | 59,334 |
| P42 - West Yorkshire | 46,015 | 77.0 | 13,728 | 23.0 | 59,743 | 43,132 | 80.5 | 10,440 | 19.5 | 53,572 |
| P43 - Wiltshire | 9,256 | 82.3 | 1,992 | 17.7 | 11,248 | 10,756 | 80.9 | 2,536 | 19.1 | 13,292 |

| | 2006-07 | | | | | 2007-08 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Convictions | | Unsuccessful | | | Convictions | | Unsuccessful | | |
| | Vol | % | Vol | % | Total | Vol | % | Vol | % | Total |
| 42 Areas | 831,093 | 84.1 | 156,939 | 15.9 | 988,032 | 828,535 | 85.7 | 138,130 | 14.3 | 966,665 |
| P01 - Avon and Somerset | 22,716 | 82.9 | 4,685 | 17.1 | 27,401 | 21,402 | 85.2 | 3,705 | 14.8 | 25,107 |

| | 2006-07 | | | | | 2007-08 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Convictions* | | *Unsuccessful* | | | *Convictions* | | *Unsuccessful* | | |
| | *Vol.* | *%* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Total* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Total* |
| **P02 - Bedfordshire** | 7,904 | 83.5 | 1,562 | 16.5 | 9,466 | 8,048 | 86.7 | 1,233 | 13.3 | 9,281 |
| **P03 - Cambridgeshire** | 10,062 | 87.5 | 1,438 | 12.5 | 11,500 | 9,321 | 88.3 | 1,239 | 11.7 | 10,560 |
| **P04 - Cheshire** | 15,360 | 86.6 | 2,383 | 13.4 | 17,743 | 18,276 | 88.4 | 2,405 | 11.6 | 20,681 |
| **P06 - Cleveland** | 10,456 | 86.7 | 1,603 | 13.3 | 12,059 | 11,037 | 87.2 | 1,625 | 12.8 | 12,662 |
| **P07 - Cumbria** | 11,382 | 88.8 | 1,438 | 11.2 | 12,820 | 11,148 | 89.2 | 1,347 | 10.8 | 12,495 |
| **P08 - Derbyshire** | 13,174 | 85.1 | 2,304 | 14.9 | 15,478 | 13,561 | 86.6 | 2,094 | 13.4 | 15,655 |
| **P09 - Devon & Cornwall** | 17,689 | 85.8 | 2,916 | 14.2 | 20,605 | 18,349 | 86.5 | 2,862 | 13.5 | 21,211 |
| **P10 - Dorset** | 9,676 | 83.8 | 1,866 | 16.2 | 11,542 | 9,041 | 80.7 | 2,163 | 19.3 | 11,204 |
| **P12 - Dyfed Powys** | 8,468 | 83.8 | 1,633 | 16.2 | 10,101 | 8,562 | 85.0 | 1,508 | 15.0 | 10,070 |
| **P13 - Essex** | 19,255 | 84.9 | 3,426 | 15.1 | 22,681 | 21,253 | 86.4 | 3,354 | 13.6 | 24,607 |
| **P14 - Gloucestershire** | 6,664 | 83.5 | 1,321 | 16.5 | 7,985 | 6,686 | 84.5 | 1,230 | 15.5 | 7,916 |
| **P15 - Greater Manchester** | 55,609 | 84.8 | 10,005 | 15.2 | 65,614 | 51,130 | 86.6 | 7,930 | 13.4 | 59,060 |
| **P16 - Gwent** | 11,190 | 84.9 | 1,988 | 15.1 | 13,178 | 10,275 | 84.4 | 1,898 | 15.6 | 12,173 |
| **P17 - Hampshire** | 23,350 | 85.8 | 3,877 | 14.2 | 27,227 | 25,568 | 86.1 | 4,134 | 13.9 | 29,702 |
| **P18 - Hertfordshire** | 14,316 | 83.0 | 2,931 | 17.0 | 17,247 | 13,757 | 84.9 | 2,451 | 15.1 | 16,208 |
| **P19 - Humberside** | 13,184 | 89.4 | 1,565 | 10.6 | 14,749 | 14,286 | 89.9 | 1,608 | 10.1 | 15,894 |
| **P20 - Kent** | 22,780 | 87.1 | 3,385 | 12.9 | 26,165 | 22,061 | 87.3 | 3,211 | 12.7 | 25,272 |
| **P21 - Lancashire** | 30,331 | 83.7 | 5,902 | 16.3 | 36,233 | 29,087 | 86.6 | 4,503 | 13.4 | 33,590 |
| **P22 - Leicestershire** | 13,913 | 80.4 | 3,381 | 19.6 | 17,294 | 14,511 | 85.0 | 2,555 | 15.0 | 17,066 |
| **P23 - Lincolnshire** | 12,268 | 88.9 | 1,530 | 11.1 | 13,798 | 11,488 | 90.9 | 1,156 | 9.1 | 12,644 |
| **P25 - London** | 106,704 | 81.9 | 23,656 | 18.1 | 130,360 | 107,444 | 83.9 | 20,647 | 16.1 | 128,091 |
| **P24 - Merseyside** | 21,210 | 83.1 | 4,311 | 16.9 | 25,521 | 26,992 | 85.1 | 4,708 | 14.9 | 31,700 |
| **P24 - Merseyside** | 11,965 | 86.1 | 1,934 | 13.9 | 13,899 | 12,137 | 87.4 | 1,751 | 12.6 | 13,888 |
| **P27 - Northamptonshire** | 9,404 | 81.9 | 2,083 | 18.1 | 11,487 | 9,651 | 86.3 | 1,531 | 13.7 | 11,182 |
| **P28 - Northumbria** | 34,624 | 85.7 | 5,800 | 14.3 | 40,424 | 35,404 | 85.3 | 6,077 | 14.7 | 41,481 |
| **P29 - North Wales** | 12,932 | 87.1 | 1,920 | 12.9 | 14,852 | 11,913 | 87.9 | 1,638 | 12.1 | 13,551 |
| **P30 - North Yorkshire** | 9,039 | 84.4 | 1,672 | 15.6 | 10,711 | 9,623 | 86.8 | 1,462 | 13.2 | 11,085 |
| **P31 - Nottinghamshire** | 17,279 | 83.4 | 3,435 | 16.6 | 20,714 | 16,925 | 83.2 | 3,413 | 16.8 | 20,338 |
| **P32 - South Wales** | 23,195 | 81.3 | 5,350 | 18.7 | 28,545 | 21,211 | 82.3 | 4,573 | 17.7 | 25,784 |
| **P33 - South Yorkshire** | 21,287 | 85.5 | 3,620 | 14.5 | 24,907 | 21,144 | 86.8 | 3,226 | 13.2 | 24,370 |
| **P34 - Staffordshire** | 17,563 | 84.9 | 3,123 | 15.1 | 20,686 | 18,494 | 86.3 | 2,944 | 13.7 | 21,438 |
| **P35 - Suffolk** | 9,586 | 86.9 | 1,444 | 13.1 | 11,030 | 9,329 | 89.8 | 1,062 | 10.2 | 10,391 |
| **P36 - Surrey** | 6,759 | 83.1 | 1,378 | 16.9 | 8,137 | 10,930 | 84.4 | 2,014 | 15.6 | 12,944 |
| **P37 - Sussex** | 18,677 | 83.5 | 3,682 | 16.5 | 22,359 | 17,849 | 84.1 | 3,380 | 15.9 | 21,229 |
| **P38 - Thames Valley** | 30,297 | 78.9 | 8,078 | 21.1 | 38,375 | 25,889 | 81.8 | 5,759 | 18.2 | 31,648 |
| **P39 - Warwickshire** | 6,730 | 92.1 | 576 | 7.9 | 7,306 | 6,574 | 92.4 | 539 | 7.6 | 7,113 |
| **P40 - West Mercia** | 19,303 | 84.0 | 3,668 | 16.0 | 22,971 | 18,814 | 86.1 | 3,049 | 13.9 | 21,863 |
| **P41 - West Midlands** | 46,796 | 83.5 | 9,263 | 16.5 | 56,059 | 45,772 | 86.0 | 7,458 | 14.0 | 53,230 |
| **P42 - West Yorkshire** | 39,079 | 83.8 | 7,558 | 16.2 | 46,637 | 36,465 | 86.4 | 5,719 | 13.6 | 42,184 |
| **P43 - Wiltshire** | 9,986 | 84.9 | 1,778 | 15.1 | 11,764 | 7,601 | 83.2 | 1,530 | 16.8 | 9,131 |

| | 2008-09 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Convictions* | | *Unsuccessful* | | |
| | *Vol.* | *%* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Total* |
| **42 Areas** | 810,605 | 87.3 | 118,103 | 12.7 | 928,708 |
| **P01 - Avon and Somerset** | 20,535 | 88.4 | 2,686 | 11.6 | 23,221 |
| **P02 - Bedfordshire** | 7,651 | 87.4 | 1,101 | 12.6 | 8,752 |
| **P03 - Cambridgeshire** | 9,392 | 89.7 | 1,078 | 10.3 | 10,470 |
| **P04 - Cheshire** | 17,354 | 88.9 | 2,170 | 11.1 | 19,524 |
| **P06 - Cleveland** | 11,404 | 87.4 | 1,640 | 12.6 | 13,044 |
| **P07 - Cumbria** | 9,545 | 88.2 | 1,273 | 11.8 | 10,818 |

| | 2008-09 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Convictions* | | *Unsuccessful* | | |
| | *Vol.* | *%* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Total* |
| P08 - Derbyshire | 12,707 | 86.4 | 1,992 | 13.6 | 14,699 |
| P09 - Devon and Cornwall | 18,427 | 88.0 | 2,511 | 12.0 | 20,938 |
| P10 - Dorset | 7,749 | 84.0 | 1,473 | 16.0 | 9,222 |
| P11 - Durham | 7,961 | 89.0 | 984 | 11.0 | 8,945 |
| P12 - Dyfed Powys | 7,757 | 85.7 | 1,294 | 14.3 | 9,051 |
| P13 - Essex | 21,465 | 86.9 | 3,249 | 13.1 | 24,714 |
| P14 - Gloucestershire | 6,967 | 87.5 | 998 | 12.5 | 7,965 |
| P15 - Greater Manchester | 49,513 | 88.8 | 6,263 | 11.2 | 55,776 |
| P16 - Gwent | 8,261 | 86.7 | 1,272 | 13.3 | 9,533 |
| P17 - Hampshire | 26,951 | 87.3 | 3,937 | 12.7 | 30,888 |
| P18 - Hertfordshire | 13,871 | 85.0 | 2,452 | 15.0 | 16,323 |
| P19 - Humberside | 14,248 | 91.4 | 1,336 | 8.6 | 15,584 |
| P20 - Kent | 20,700 | 88.5 | 2,682 | 11.5 | 23,382 |
| P21 - Lancashire | 30,023 | 87.8 | 4,153 | 12.2 | 34,176 |
| P22 - Leicestershire | 12,708 | 86.1 | 2,058 | 13.9 | 14,766 |
| P23 - Lincolnshire | 11,185 | 90.5 | 1,168 | 9.5 | 12,353 |
| P25 - London | 115,366 | 86.0 | 18,760 | 14.0 | 134,126 |
| P24 - Merseyside | 26,813 | 85.8 | 4,439 | 14.2 | 31,252 |
| P24 - Merseyside | 11,137 | 89.6 | 1,295 | 10.4 | 12,432 |
| P27 - Northamptonshire | 8,905 | 88.5 | 1,158 | 11.5 | 10,063 |
| P28 - Northumbria | 29,328 | 87.0 | 4,387 | 13.0 | 33,715 |
| P29 - North Wales | 11,653 | 89.4 | 1,380 | 10.6 | 13,033 |
| P30 - North Yorkshire | 10,536 | 89.0 | 1,307 | 11.0 | 11,843 |
| P31 - Nottinghamshire | 18,237 | 88.9 | 2,283 | 11.1 | 20,520 |
| P32 - South Wales | 22,072 | 84.6 | 4,025 | 15.4 | 26,097 |
| P33 - South Yorkshire | 20,648 | 87.0 | 3,079 | 13.0 | 23,727 |
| P34 - Staffordshire | 14,917 | 87.4 | 2,147 | 12.6 | 17,064 |
| P35 - Suffolk | 11,121 | 90.3 | 1,201 | 9.7 | 12,322 |
| P36 - Surrey | 9,740 | 86.6 | 1,510 | 13.4 | 11,250 |
| P37 - Sussex | 16,586 | 86.6 | 2,565 | 13.4 | 19,151 |
| P38 - Thames Valley | 25,546 | 85.8 | 4,245 | 14.2 | 29,791 |
| P39 - Warwickshire | 6,008 | 93.0 | 451 | 7.0 | 6,459 |
| P40 - West Mercia | 18,048 | 89.3 | 2,170 | 10.7 | 20,218 |
| P41 - West Midlands | 43,718 | 86.7 | 6,688 | 13.3 | 50,406 |
| P42 - West Yorkshire | 34,669 | 85.3 | 5,987 | 14.7 | 40,656 |
| P43 - Wiltshire | 9,183 | 88.0 | 1,256 | 12.0 | 10,439 |

*CPS Crowns Court Case Volumes and Outcomes by Area 2004-05 to 2008-09*

| | 2004-05 | | | | | 2005-06 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Convictions* | | *Unsuccessful outcomes* | | | *Convictions* | | *Unsuccessful outcomes* | | |
| | *Vol.* | *%* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Total* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Total* |
| 42 Areas | 68,281 | 75.1 | 2,609 | 24.9 | 90,890 | 69,832 | 76.4 | 21,526 | 23.6 | 91,358 |
| P01 - Avon and Somerset | 1,445 | 74.5 | 495 | 25.5 | 1,940 | 1,511 | 77.3 | 443 | 22.7 | 1,954 |
| P02 - Bedfordshire | 556 | 69.7 | 242 | 30.3 | 798 | 598 | 71.6 | 237 | 28.4 | 835 |
| P03 - Cambridgeshire | 682 | 80.2 | 168 | 19.8 | 850 | 756 | 74.0 | 266 | 26.0 | 1,022 |
| P04 - Cheshire | 955 | 83.8 | 185 | 16.2 | 1,140 | 1,192 | 81.0 | 279 | 19.0 | 1,471 |
| P06 - Cleveland | 1,041 | 76.5 | 319 | 23.5 | 1,360 | 1,075 | 77.4 | 314 | 22.6 | 1,389 |
| P07 - Cumbria | 645 | 75.2 | 213 | 24.8 | 858 | 577 | 78.5 | 158 | 21.5 | 735 |
| P08 - Derbyshire | 1,374 | 80.6 | 330 | 19.4 | 1,704 | 1,422 | 80.7 | 340 | 19.3 | 1,762 |
| P09 - Devon and Cornwall | 1,315 | 82.4 | 280 | 17.6 | 1,595 | 1,297 | 80.8 | 308 | 19.2 | 1,605 |
| P10 - Dorset | 462 | 77.8 | 132 | 22.2 | 594 | 563 | 79.4 | 146 | 20.6 | 709 |
| P11 - Durham | 751 | 84.1 | 142 | 15.9 | 893 | 970 | 80.2 | 239 | 19.8 | 1,209 |
| P12 - Dyfed Powys | 297 | 68.8 | 135 | 31.3 | 432 | 361 | 76.0 | 114 | 24.0 | 475 |
| P13 - Essex | 1,500 | 71.7 | 591 | 28.3 | 2,091 | 1,526 | 72.1 | 590 | 27.9 | 2,116 |
| P14 - Gloucestershire | 444 | 77.5 | 129 | 22.5 | 573 | 551 | 77.4 | 161 | 22.6 | 712 |

*CPS Crowns Court Case Volumes and Outcomes by Area 2004-05 to 2008-09*

| | *2004-05* | | | | | *2005-06* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Convictions* | | *Unsuccessful outcomes* | | | *Convictions* | | *Unsuccessful outcomes* | | |
| | *Vol.* | *%* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Total* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Total* |
| P15 - Greater Manchester | 5,702 | 76.3 | 1,770 | 23.7 | 7,472 | 5,755 | 81.4 | 1,317 | 18.6 | 7,072 |
| P16 - Gwent | 1,015 | 78.7 | 274 | 21.3 | 1,289 | 713 | 75.7 | 229 | 24.3 | 942 |
| P17 - Hampshire | 1,920 | 71.9 | 749 | 28.1 | 2,669 | 2,024 | 73.0 | 750 | 27.0 | 2,774 |
| P18 - Hertfordshire | 836 | 71.5 | 333 | 28.5 | 1,169 | 979 | 72.4 | 374 | 27.6 | 1,353 |
| P19 - Humberside | 1,360 | 85.1 | 238 | 14.9 | 1,598 | 1,252 | 82.2 | 272 | 17.8 | 1,524 |
| P20 - Kent | 1,295 | 73.7 | 461 | 26.3 | 1,756 | 1,246 | 74.5 | 427 | 25.5 | 1,673 |
| P21 - Lancashire | 2,140 | 77.8 | 610 | 22.2 | 2,750 | 2,341 | 79.0 | 621 | 21.0 | 2,962 |
| P22 - Leicestershire | 1,266 | 77.6 | 365 | 22.4 | 1,631 | 1,295 | 72.0 | 503 | 28.0 | 1,798 |
| P23 - Lincolnshire | 567 | 76.5 | 174 | 23.5 | 741 | 508 | 77.6 | 147 | 22.4 | 655 |
| P25 - London | 10,933 | 66.5 | 5,519 | 33.5 | 16,452 | 11,817 | 68.9 | 5,346 | 31.1 | 17,163 |
| P24 - Merseyside | 2,294 | 72.4 | 875 | 27.6 | 3,169 | 2,531 | 76.5 | 777 | 23.5 | 3,308 |
| P26 - Norfolk | 812 | 85.5 | 138 | 14.5 | 950 | 883 | 82.2 | 191 | 17.8 | 1,074 |
| P27 - Northamptonshire | 699 | 78.7 | 189 | 21.3 | 888 | 665 | 79.5 | 172 | 20.5 | 837 |
| P28 - Northumbria | 1,872 | 80.3 | 459 | 19.7 | 2,331 | 2,114 | 80.9 | 498 | 19.1 | 2,612 |
| P29 - North Wales | 573 | 83.4 | 114 | 16.6 | 687 | 621 | 77.8 | 177 | 22.2 | 798 |
| P30 - North Yorkshire | 680 | 78.6 | 185 | 21.4 | 865 | 823 | 78.1 | 231 | 21.9 | 1,054 |
| P31 - Nottinghamshire | 1,486 | 80.7 | 355 | 19.3 | 1,841 | 1,663 | 79.6 | 426 | 20.4 | 2,089 |
| P32 - South Wales | 2,353 | 79.1 | 620 | 20.9 | 2,973 | 2,057 | 80.7 | 493 | 19.3 | 2,550 |
| P33 - South Yorkshire | 2,117 | 83.7 | 411 | 16.3 | 2,528 | 2,086 | 85.6 | 350 | 14.4 | 2,436 |
| P34 - Staffordshire | 1,413 | 77.9 | 401 | 22.1 | 1,814 | 1,302 | 77.9 | 370 | 22.1 | 1,672 |
| P35 - Suffolk | 608 | 79.8 | 154 | 20.2 | 762 | 494 | 75.9 | 157 | 24.1 | 651 |
| P36 - Surrey | 653 | 72.6 | 247 | 27.4 | 900 | 643 | 75.9 | 204 | 24.1 | 847 |
| P37 - Sussex | 1,360 | 73.0 | 502 | 27.0 | 1,862 | 1,355 | 73.5 | 489 | 26.5 | 1,844 |
| P38 - Thames Valley | 1,621 | 77.7 | 465 | 22.3 | 2,086 | 1,803 | 77.5 | 522 | 22.5 | 2,325 |
| P39 - Warwickshire | 278 | 89.1 | 34 | 10.9 | 312 | 311 | 87.9 | 43 | 12.1 | 354 |
| P40 - West Mercia | 1,190 | 79.3 | 311 | 20.7 | 1,501 | 1,464 | 82.2 | 316 | 17.8 | 1,780 |
| P41 - West Midlands | 5,653 | 72.8 | 2,113 | 27.2 | 7,766 | 4,920 | 76.6 | 1,507 | 23.4 | 6,427 |
| P42 - West Yorkshire | 3,753 | 78.0 | 1,061 | 22.0 | 4,814 | 3,354 | 79.4 | 870 | 20.6 | 4,224 |
| P43 - Wiltshire | 365 | 75.1 | 121 | 24.9 | 486 | 414 | 73.1 | 152 | 26.9 | 566 |

| | *2006-07* | | | | | *2007-08* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Convictions* | | *Unsuccessful outcomes* | | | *Convictions* | | *Unsuccessful outcomes* | | |
| | *Vol.* | *%* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Total* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Total* |
| 42 Areas | 69,549 | 77.0 | 20,720 | 23.0 | 90,269 | 77,428 | 79.4 | 20,101 | 20.6 | 97,529 |
| P01 - Avon and Somerset | 1,311 | 74.2 | 457 | 25.8 | 1,768 | 1,447 | 79.5 | 374 | 20.5 | 1,821 |
| P02 - Bedfordshire | 638 | 75.2 | 210 | 24.8 | 848 | 657 | 79.5 | 169 | 20.5 | 826 |
| P03 - Cambridgeshire | 773 | 77.7 | 222 | 22.3 | 995 | 793 | 79.1 | 210 | 20.9 | 1,003 |
| P04 - Cheshire | 1,226 | 80.3 | 301 | 19.7 | 1,527 | 1,254 | 84.1 | 237 | 15.9 | 1,491 |
| P06 - Cleveland | 1,082 | 74.1 | 379 | 25.9 | 1,461 | 1,151 | 80.9 | 272 | 19.1 | 1,423 |
| P07 - Cumbria | 561 | 75.3 | 184 | 24.7 | 745 | 709 | 81.6 | 160 | 18.4 | 869 |
| P08 - Derbyshire | 1,158 | 83.3 | 232 | 16.7 | 1,390 | 1,146 | 82.0 | 251 | 18.0 | 1,397 |
| P09 - Devon and Cornwall | 1,071 | 78.7 | 290 | 21.3 | 1,361 | 1,163 | 81.2 | 269 | 18.8 | 1,432 |
| P10 - Dorset | 612 | 75.3 | 201 | 24.7 | 813 | 593 | 80.8 | 141 | 19.2 | 734 |
| P11 - Durham | 1,019 | 81.7 | 229 | 18.3 | 1,248 | 1,188 | 83.8 | 230 | 16.2 | 1,418 |
| P12 - Dyfed Powys | 357 | 78.3 | 99 | 21.7 | 456 | 374 | 82.7 | 78 | 17.3 | 452 |
| P13 - Essex | 1,585 | 74.9 | 530 | 25.1 | 2,115 | 1,869 | 78.0 | 526 | 22.0 | 2,395 |
| P14 - Gloucestershire | 485 | 80.4 | 118 | 19.6 | 603 | 593 | 82.8 | 123 | 17.2 | 716 |
| P15 - Greater Manchester | 5,588 | 80.3 | 1,372 | 19.7 | 6,960 | 6,092 | 80.5 | 1,479 | 19.5 | 7,571 |
| P16 - Gwent | 784 | 77.5 | 227 | 22.5 | 1,011 | 721 | 79.2 | 189 | 20.8 | 910 |

| | 2006-07 | | | | | 2007-08 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Convictions* | | *Unsuccessful outcomes* | | | *Convictions* | | *Unsuccessful outcomes* | | |
| | *Vol.* | *%* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Total* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Total* |
| P17 - Hampshire | 1,978 | 75.1 | 657 | 24.9 | 2,635 | 2,195 | 76.9 | 661 | 23.1 | 2,856 |
| P18 - Hertfordshire | 926 | 71.8 | 363 | 28.2 | 1,289 | 1,181 | 76.8 | 357 | 23.2 | 1,538 |
| P19 - Humberside | 1,430 | 87.1 | 212 | 12.9 | 1,642 | 1,502 | 85.8 | 248 | 14.2 | 1,750 |
| P20 - Kent | 1,491 | 77.5 | 432 | 22.5 | 1,923 | 1,988 | 80.5 | 481 | 19.5 | 2,469 |
| P21 - Lancashire | 2,386 | 78.1 | 671 | 21.9 | 3,057 | 2,779 | 82.2 | 603 | 17.8 | 3,382 |
| P22 - Leicestershire | 1,239 | 74.6 | 421 | 25.4 | 1,660 | 1,146 | 77.3 | 337 | 22.7 | 1,483 |
| P23 - Lincolnshire | 499 | 79.0 | 133 | 21.0 | 632 | 513 | 82.1 | 112 | 17.9 | 625 |
| P25 - London | 12,167 | 69.6 | 5,317 | 30.4 | 17,484 | 14,656 | 72.5 | 5,558 | 27.5 | 20,214 |
| P24 - Merseyside | 2,306 | 76.5 | 707 | 23.5 | 3,013 | 2,422 | 77.8 | 693 | 22.2 | 3,115 |
| P26 - Norfolk | 1,047 | 86.5 | 163 | 13.5 | 1,210 | 1,061 | 89.2 | 128 | 10.8 | 1,189 |
| P27 - Northamptonshire | 617 | 85.2 | 107 | 14.8 | 724 | 759 | 89.0 | 94 | 11.0 | 853 |
| P28 - Northumbria | 2,032 | 79.8 | 513 | 20.2 | 2,545 | 2,466 | 80.9 | 584 | 19.1 | 3,050 |
| P29 - North Wales | 722 | 82.3 | 155 | 17.7 | 877 | 815 | 87.4 | 117 | 12.6 | 932 |
| P30 - North Yorkshire | 842 | 79.2 | 221 | 20.8 | 1,063 | 764 | 79.4 | 198 | 20.6 | 962 |
| P31 - Nottinghamshire | 1,493 | 80.0 | 373 | 20.0 | 1,866 | 1,574 | 80.3 | 387 | 19.7 | 1,961 |
| P32 - South Wales | 1,849 | 79.0 | 491 | 21.0 | 2,340 | 2,193 | 80.4 | 536 | 19.6 | 2,729 |
| P33 - South Yorkshire | 2,151 | 87.6 | 304 | 12.4 | 2,455 | 2,282 | 87.0 | 340 | 13.0 | 2,622 |
| P34 - Staffordshire | 1,352 | 83.1 | 275 | 16.9 | 1,627 | 1,496 | 83.5 | 296 | 16.5 | 1,792 |
| P35 - Suffolk | 588 | 74.0 | 207 | 26.0 | 795 | 616 | 83.8 | 119 | 16.2 | 735 |
| P36 - Surrey | 645 | 76.1 | 203 | 23.9 | 848 | 833 | 75.5 | 270 | 24.5 | 1,103 |
| P37 - Sussex | 1,715 | 75.3 | 562 | 24.7 | 2,277 | 1,896 | 79.1 | 501 | 20.9 | 2,397 |
| P38 - Thames Valley | 1,777 | 76.2 | 556 | 23.8 | 2,333 | 1,909 | 79.5 | 492 | 20.5 | 2,401 |
| P39 - Warwickshire | 347 | 89.9 | 39 | 10.1 | 386 | 359 | 89.5 | 42 | 10.5 | 401 |
| P40 - West Mercia | 1,319 | 78.9 | 353 | 21.1 | 1,672 | 1,236 | 84.3 | 230 | 15.7 | 1,466 |
| P41 - West Midlands | 5,276 | 77.4 | 1,543 | 22.6 | 6,819 | 5,389 | 80.9 | 1,274 | 19.1 | 6,663 |
| P42 - West Yorkshire | 2,668 | 82.8 | 553 | 17.2 | 3,221 | 3,225 | 83.5 | 636 | 16.5 | 3,861 |
| P43 - Wiltshire | 437 | 76.0 | 138 | 24.0 | 575 | 423 | 81.0 | 99 | 19.0 | 522 |

| | 2008-09 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Convictions* | | *Unsuccessful outcomes* | | |
| | *Vol.* | *%* | *Vol.* | *%* | *Total* |
| 42 Areas | 84,000 | 80.9 | 19,890 | 19.1 | 103,890 |
| P01 - Avon and Somerset | 1,655 | 81.4 | 378 | 18.6 | 2,033 |
| P02 - Bedfordshire | 813 | 83.4 | 162 | 16.6 | 975 |
| P03 - Cambridgeshire | 944 | 81.6 | 213 | 18.4 | 1,157 |
| P04 - Cheshire | 1,348 | 82.0 | 295 | 18.0 | 1,643 |
| P06 - Cleveland | 1,443 | 80.5 | 349 | 19.5 | 1,792 |
| P07 - Cumbria | 838 | 81.9 | 185 | 18.1 | 1,023 |
| P08 - Derbyshire | 1,266 | 81.3 | 291 | 18.7 | 1,557 |
| P09 - Devon and Cornwall | 1,354 | 78.8 | 364 | 21.2 | 1,718 |
| P10 - Dorset | 634 | 85.1 | 111 | 14.9 | 745 |
| P11 - Durham | 1,268 | 86.3 | 201 | 13.7 | 1,469 |
| P12 - Dyfed Powys | 414 | 82.1 | 90 | 17.9 | 504 |
| P13 - Essex | 1,966 | 80.1 | 489 | 19.9 | 2,455 |
| P14 - Gloucestershire | 708 | 81.9 | 156 | 18.1 | 864 |
| P15 - Greater Manchester | 5,977 | 84.1 | 1,130 | 15.9 | 7,107 |
| P16 - Gwent | 758 | 76.2 | 237 | 23.8 | 995 |
| P17 - Hampshire | 2,268 | 75.9 | 722 | 24.1 | 2,990 |
| P18 - Hertfordshire | 1,097 | 79.8 | 278 | 20.2 | 1,375 |
| P19 - Humberside | 1,758 | 88.3 | 233 | 11.7 | 1,991 |
| P20 - Kent | 1,956 | 84.7 | 353 | 15.3 | 2,309 |
| P21 - Lancashire | 3,087 | 83.2 | 625 | 16.8 | 3,712 |
| P22 - Leicestershire | 1,157 | 82.6 | 244 | 17.4 | 1,401 |
| P23 - Lincolnshire | 666 | 88.4 | 87 | 11.6 | 753 |
| P25 - London | 15,529 | 73.2 | 5,688 | 26.8 | 21,217 |

| | 2008-09 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Convictions | | Unsuccessful outcomes | | |
| | Vol. | % | Vol. | % | Total |
| P24 - Merseyside | 2,538 | 81.2 | 587 | 18.8 | 3,125 |
| P26 - Norfolk | 1,094 | 86.8 | 166 | 13.2 | 1,260 |
| P27 - Northamptonshire | 890 | 87.9 | 122 | 12.1 | 1,012 |
| P28 - Northumbria | 2,528 | 82.7 | 527 | 17.3 | 3,055 |
| P29 - North Wales | 812 | 86.8 | 123 | 13.2 | 935 |
| P30 - North Yorkshire | 863 | 80.5 | 209 | 19.5 | 1,072 |
| P31 - Nottinghamshire | 1,822 | 84.9 | 325 | 15.1 | 2,147 |
| P32 - South Wales | 2,621 | 82.2 | 567 | 17.8 | 3,188 |
| P33 - South Yorkshire | 2,637 | 87.6 | 374 | 12.4 | 3,011 |
| P34 - Staffordshire | 1,682 | 85.4 | 287 | 14.6 | 1,969 |
| P35 - Suffolk | 702 | 83.7 | 137 | 16.3 | 839 |
| P36 - Surrey | 843 | 77.6 | 243 | 22.4 | 1,086 |
| P37 - Sussex | 2,055 | 81.9 | 454 | 18.1 | 2,509 |
| P38 - Thames Valley | 2,383 | 79.2 | 624 | 20.8 | 3,007 |
| P39 - Warwickshire | 386 | 89.1 | 47 | 10.9 | 433 |
| P40 - West Mercia | 1,227 | 86.5 | 192 | 13.5 | 1,419 |
| P41 - West Midlands | 5,351 | 82.1 | 1,163 | 17.9 | 6,514 |
| P42 - West Yorkshire | 4,115 | 84.8 | 737 | 15.2 | 4,852 |
| P43 - Wiltshire | 547 | 81.4 | 125 | 18.6 | 672 |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases were discontinued by the Crown Prosecution Service at *(a)* committal and *(b)* a later stage for reasons of (i) a lack of preparation and (ii) delay in each of the last five years; and how many cases were dismissed by (A) magistrates courts and (B) Crown courts for those reasons in each of those five years. [305445]

**The Solicitor-General:** Cases are rarely discontinued at committal for reasons of lack of preparation or delay. If a committal is not ready, the CPS tends to seek an adjournment to enable the file preparation to be completed. If the adjournment is not granted, the CPS will have to offer no evidence and the committal is 'discharged'.

Table A shows all reasons for which cases were discharged at committal during the four years for which data available. Each applicable reason is also expressed as a proportion of all completed cases in magistrates courts. Table B shows the reasons for which case were dropped in the Crown court following committal for trial, both by volume and as a proportion of completed Crown court cases.

No comparable analysis is maintained of the reasons why cases result in dismissal by the magistrates or acquittal by the jury, as these outcomes are the decision of the court rather than of the prosecution.

Proceedings for an offence that has been discharged at committal because the prosecution is unable to proceed may be re-instituted. After a committal has been discharged, the prosecutor will liaise with the police to consider whether the proceedings can be re-instituted.

*Table A: Reasons for discharged committals*

| | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Vol | % | Vol | % | Vol | % | Vol | % |
| *Total Evidential Reasons* | 1,205 | 0.1 | 1,021 | 0.1 | 855 | 0.1 | 858 | 0.1 |
| E1 Inadmissible evidence—Breach of PACE | 4 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| E2 Inadmissible evidence—other than Breach of PACE | 20 | 0.0 | 15 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.0 |
| E3 Unreliable confession | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| E4 Conflict of evidence | 57 | 0.0 | 81 | 0.0 | 88 | 0.0 | 72 | 0.0 |
| E5 Essential medical evidence missing | 43 | 0.0 | 32 | 0.0 | 22 | 0.0 | 29 | 0.0 |
| E6 Essential forensic evidence missing | 213 | 0.0 | 198 | 0.0 | 224 | 0.0 | 192 | 0.0 |
| E7 Essential legal element missing | 704 | 0.1 | 563 | 0.1 | 367 | 0.0 | 433 | 0.0 |
| E8 Unreliable witness or witnesses | 36 | 0.0 | 26 | 0.0 | 29 | 0.0 | 15 | 0.0 |
| E9 Key victim does not support case | 31 | 0.0 | 25 | 0.0 | 35 | 0.0 | 35 | 0.0 |
| E10 Key witness does not support case | 7 | 0.0 | 4 | 0.0 | 3 | 0.0 | 15 | 0.0 |
| E11 Unreliable/lack of identification | 90 | 0.0 | 70 | 0.0 | 83 | 0.0 | 61 | 0.0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| *Total Public Interest Reasons* | 60 | 0.0 | 63 | 0.0 | 82 | 0.0 | 62 | 0.0 |
| P12 Effect on victim's physical or mental health | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 |

*Table A: Reasons for discharged committals*

| | *2005-06* | | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | | *2008-09* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Vol* | *%* | *Vol* | *%* | *Vol* | *%* | *Vol* | *%* |
| P13 Suspect/Defendant elderly or in significant ill health | 1 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.0 | 7 | 0.0 | 8 | 0.0 |
| P14 Loss or harm minor and single incident | 4 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 |
| P15 Loss or harm put right | 1 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 5 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| P16 Long delay between offence/charge or trial | 8 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.0 | 10 | 0.0 | 9 | 0.0 |
| P17 Very small or nominal penalty | 6 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.0 | 5 | 0.0 |
| P18 Other indictment/sentence | 26 | 0.0 | 36 | 0.0 | 45 | 0.0 | 26 | 0.0 |
| P19 Informer or other public interest immunity issues | 1 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 3 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 |
| P20 Caution more suitable | 10 | 0.0 | 11 | 0.0 | 4 | 0.0 | 10 | 0.0 |
| P21 Youth of offender | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| P36 Inappropriate to compel victim | 2 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| P37 Inappropriate to compel witness | 1 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| *Total Prosecution Unable to Proceed Reasons* | 1,203 | 0.1 | 1,159 | 0.1 | 1,246 | 0.1 | 1,044 | 0.1 |
| U22 File not received from police—adjournment refused | 693 | 0.1 | 580 | 0.1 | 616 | 0.1 | 556 | 0.1 |
| U23 CPS not ready—adjournment refused | 471 | 0.0 | 541 | 0.1 | 583 | 0.1 | 467 | 0.1 |
| U24 Offence taken into consideration | 6 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 3 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.0 |
| U25 Victim refuses to give evidence or retracts | 27 | 0.0 | 32 | 0.0 | 43 | 0.0 | 15 | 0.0 |
| U26 Other witness refuses to give evidence or retracts | 5 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 |
| U27 Victim fails to attend unexpectedly | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.0 |
| U29 Police witness fails to attend unexpectedly | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| U30 Victim intimidation | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 |
| U32 Documents produced at court | 1 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| *Total Other Reasons* | 154 | 0.0 | 82 | 0.0 | 47 | 0.0 | 20 | 0.0 |
| O33 Bind over acceptable | 10 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.0 | 3 | 0.0 | 3 | 0.0 |
| O34 Acquittal after trial | 20 | 0.0 | 19 | 0.0 | 21 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.0 |
| O35 Other | 124 | 0.0 | 57 | 0.0 | 23 | 0.0 | 11 | 0.0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| *Total discharged committals* | 2,622 | 0.2 | 2,325 | 0.2 | 2,230 | 0.2 | 1,984 | 0.2 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| *Total completed magistrates court cases* | 1,068,745 | — | 988,032 | — | 966,665 | — | 928,708 | — |

*Table B: Reasons for prosecutions dropped in the Crown court*

| | *2005-06* | | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | | *2008-09* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Vol* | *%* | *Vol* | *%* | *Vol* | *%* | *Vol* | *%* |
| *Total Evidential Reasons* | 6,559 | 7.2 | 6,712 | 7.4 | 7,297 | 7.5 | 7,489 | 7.2 |
| E1 Inadmissible evidence—Breach of PACE | 58 | 0.1 | 43 | 0.0 | 61 | 0.1 | 40 | 0.0 |
| E2 Inadmissible evidence—other than Breach of PACE | 140 | 0.2 | 61 | 0.1 | 72 | 0.1 | 51 | 0.0 |
| E3 Unreliable confession | 23 | 0.0 | 11 | 0.0 | 28 | 0.0 | 13 | 0.0 |
| E4 Conflict of evidence | 1,009 | 1.1 | 1,136 | 1.3 | 1,279 | 1.3 | 1,421 | 1.4 |
| E5 Essential medical evidence missing | 61 | 0.1 | 41 | 0.0 | 53 | 0.1 | 44 | 0.0 |
| E6 Essential forensic evidence missing | 224 | 0.2 | 197 | 0.2 | 287 | 0.3 | 276 | 0.3 |
| E7 Essential legal element missing | 1,977 | 2.2 | 2,236 | 2.5 | 2,403 | 2.5 | 2,397 | 2.3 |
| E8 Unreliable witness or witnesses | 1,120 | 1.2 | 1,158 | 1.3 | 1,048 | 1.1 | 1,052 | 1.0 |
| E9 Key victim does not support case | 990 | 1.1 | 1,048 | 1.2 | 1,126 | 1.2 | 1,226 | 1.2 |
| E10 Key witness does not support case | 275 | 0.3 | 290 | 0.3 | 292 | 0.3 | 317 | 0.3 |
| E11 Unreliable/lack of identification | 682 | 0.7 | 491 | 0.5 | 648 | 0.7 | 652 | 0.6 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| *Total Public Interest Reasons* | 1,539 | 1.7 | 1,538 | 1.7 | 1,795 | 1.8 | 1,721 | 1.7 |
| P12 Effect on victim's physical or mental health | 137 | 0.1 | 112 | 0.1 | 119 | 0.1 | 102 | 0.1 |

*Table B: Reasons for prosecutions dropped in the Crown court*

| | *2005-06* | | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | | *2008-09* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Vol* | *%* | *Vol* | *%* | *Vol* | *%* | *Vol* | *%* |
| P13 Suspect/Defendant elderly or in significant ill health | 175 | 0.2 | 177 | 0.2 | 202 | 0.2 | 199 | 0.2 |
| P14 Loss or harm minor and single incident | 14 | 0.0 | 32 | 0.0 | 22 | 0.0 | 31 | 0.0 |
| P15 Loss or harm put right | 32 | 0.0 | 42 | 0.0 | 45 | 0.0 | 40 | 0.0 |
| P16 Long delay between offence/charge or trial | 80 | 0.1 | 88 | 0.1 | 91 | 0.1 | 90 | 0.1 |
| P17 Very small or nominal penalty | 61 | 0.1 | 75 | 0.1 | 99 | 0.1 | 103 | 0.1 |
| P18 Other indictment/sentence | 753 | 0.8 | 769 | 0.9 | 904 | 0.9 | 885 | 0.9 |
| P19 Informer or other public interest immunity issues | 157 | 0.2 | 107 | 0.1 | 113 | 0.1 | 89 | 0.1 |
| P20 Caution more suitable | 78 | 0.1 | 78 | 0.1 | 93 | 0.1 | 96 | 0.1 |
| P21 Youth of offender | 9 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.0 | 7 | 0.0 | 9 | 0.0 |
| P36 Inappropriate to compel victim | 35 | 0.0 | 38 | 0.0 | 72 | 0.1 | 50 | 0.0 |
| P37 Inappropriate to compel witness | 8 | 0.0 | 18 | 0.0 | 28 | 0.0 | 27 | 0.0 |
| *Total Prosecution Unable to Proceed Reasons* | 2,922 | 3.2 | 2,785 | 3.1 | 2,318 | 2.4 | 2,171 | 2.1 |
| U22 File not received from police—adjournment refused | 54 | 0.1 | 40 | 0.0 | 25 | 0.0 | 21 | 0.0 |
| U23 CPS not ready—adjournment refused | 50 | 0.1 | 47 | 0.1 | 38 | 0.0 | 46 | 0.0 |
| U24 Offence taken into consideration | 41 | 0.0 | 49 | 0.1 | 34 | 0.0 | 45 | 0.0 |
| U25 Victim refuses to give evidence or retracts | 1,729 | 1.9 | 1,596 | 1.8 | 1,206 | 1.2 | 1,039 | 1.0 |
| U26 Other witness refuses to give evidence or retracts. | 207 | 0.2 | 191 | 0.2 | 167 | 0.2 | 181 | 0.2 |
| U27 Victim fails to attend unexpectedly | 542 | 0.6 | 624 | 0.7 | 614 | 0.6 | 627 | 0.6 |
| U28 Other civilian witness fails to attend unexpectedly | 216 | 0.2 | 174 | 0.2 | 177 | 0.2 | 151 | 0.1 |
| U29 Police witness fails to attend unexpectedly | 37 | 0.0 | 37 | 0.0 | 32 | 0.0 | 29 | 0.0 |
| U30 Victim intimidation | 1 | 0.0 | 5 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.0 |
| U31 Other civilian witness intimidation | 2 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 |
| U32 Documents produced at court | 43 | 0.0 | 20 | 0.0 | 24 | 0.0 | 25 | 0.0 |
| *Total Other Reasons* | 1,643 | 1.8 | 1,255 | 1.4 | 1,099 | 1.1 | 817 | 0.8 |
| O33 Bind over acceptable | 733 | 0.8 | 661 | 0.7 | 652 | 0.7 | 489 | 0.5 |
| O34 Acquittal after trial | 86 | 0.1 | 107 | 0.1 | 124 | 0.1 | 83 | 0.1 |
| O35 Other | 824 | 0.9 | 487 | 0.5 | 323 | 0.3 | 245 | 0.2 |
| *Total prosecutions dropped* | 12,663 | 13.9 | 12,290 | 13.6 | 12,509 | 12.8 | 12,198 | 11.7 |
| *Total completed crown court cases* | 91,358 | — | 90,269 | — | 97,529 | — | 103,890 | — |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many employment tribunals are considering cases relating to Crown Prosecution Service staff. [305509]

**The Solicitor-General:** There are currently 20 employment tribunal cases, lodged against the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) by CPS staff.

## Serious Fraud Office: Conferences

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Serious Fraud Office's (SFO) buildings attended by civil servants in the SFO there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307448]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Serious Fraud Office has held three away days since 2005 at a total cost of £37,473.21 (including VAT).

## DEFENCE

### Hebrides Range

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will replace the surveillance and tracking equipment in use at Hebrides Range. [307042]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** My officials are developing plans with the range operator, QinetiQ, for new investment in the Hebrides Range including the possible replacement or upgrade of surveillance and tracking equipment. The plans are at an early stage and no decisions have yet been taken. These plans will not involve redundancies.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will upgrade the electricity generation facilities at St. Kilda in respect of Hebrides Range. [307043]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** My officials are currently considering whether the existing electricity generators on St. Kilda should be replaced due to their age. This assessment will take into account the affordability and relative priority of any replacement compared with other potential investments. These plans will not involve redundancies.

### Afghanistan: Armed Forces

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken to form local auxiliary forces outside the Afghan National Security Forces in Helmand province. [304351]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The main focus for Afghanistan to be able to take responsibility for its own security has been in developing the Afghan national Army and Afghan national police.

While there have been several initiatives by the Government of Afghanistan to form local auxiliary forces outside the Afghan National Security Forces, including plans for an Afghan national auxiliary police and an Afghan public protection programme, these have not been adopted in Helmand.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the tribal origins of the *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks in the (i) present and (ii) expected future Afghan National Army; and what proportion are (A) currently serving and (B) expected to serve in Helmand province. [306746]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The tribal origins of the Afghan National Army are provided in the following table.

*Percentage*

| | *Pashtun* | *Tajik* | *Hazara* | *Uzbek* | *Others* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Officer | 43 | 40 | 8 | 4 | 5 |
| Non commissioned officers | 42 | 40 | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| Enlisted | 39 | 33 | 12 | 9 | 7 |
| Overall ANA | 41 | 36 | 11 | 7 | 5 |

We expect the future tribal origins of the Afghan National Army to be consistent with the tribal targets for the Afghan National Army set by the Government of Afghanistan in 2002 which are Pashtums—42 per cent; Tajiks 27 per cent; Hazara—9 per cent; Uzbek—9 per cent; Other—13 per cent.

As announced by the Prime Minister on 14 October 2009, last year there were only 4,200 Afghan soldiers in Helmand; this year numbers have increased by an extra 50 per cent, to more than 6,000.

As announced by the Prime Minister on 30 November extra Afghan soldiers have started to arrive in Helmand this month with 600 arriving which equates to an extra company for each Afghan battalion there. A further 10 Afghan companies (1,000 more troops) will soon reinforce the Afghan army's 205 corps across southern Afghanistan.

We will continue to work closely with the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to build the capacity of the Afghan national security forces.

### Afghanistan: Census

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many population censuses have been carried out in Britain's area of responsibility in Helmand province since 2005. [304352]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The last official population census carried out in Afghanistan, which included Helmand Province, was in 1970. A number of population estimates have been undertaken since then by international organisations and forces. For example in 2003 the Afghan Central Statistical Office/United Nations Population Fund conducted a Socio-Economic Demographic Profile which included a population estimate.

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-6W, on Afghanistan and Pakistan, on what date it was agreed with the Afghan government that the number of Afghan police in Helmand would increase to 4,100; and how many Afghan police were deployed in Helmand prior to that agreement. [304939]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

The decision to uplift the number of Afghan police in Helmand to 4,100 was announced by Afghan Minister of the Interior Hanif Atmar in July 2009. It followed discussion and agreement with the international community, including the UK, at the International Policing Coordination Board, chaired by Minister Atmar. It was part of a review of the Afghan national police by the Interior Ministry, which resulted in the decision to increase the number of police by 10,000 for 14 high-threat provinces ahead of the Afghan elections in August. Prior to that the Helmand allocation for Afghan national police was 3,500.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average annual cost is of deployment of servicemen and women in Afghanistan since 2001. [306453]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The operational costs in Afghanistan are prepared and audited on an annual basis for the whole of the operation and do not separately identify information regarding the cost of each individual deployed in theatre. This is because deployed troops conduct many different tasks, using different equipment, which results in varying consumption rates.

The current forecast of costs for military operations in Afghanistan during the financial year 2009-10 is £3,754 million, as published in Winter Supplementary Estimates, 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 45-46WS. The cost of military operations (Request for Resources 2) is based on the net additional costs incurred for the full cost of items such as transport/movement, consumption, operational equipment and equipment support, operational allowances and welfare, utilities, infrastructure, communications, food, training, medical supplies, as well as non-cash costs such as depreciation and cost of capital charge. The costs that the Department would have incurred regardless of the operation taking place, such as payroll costs, are recorded against the core (Request for Resources 1) Defence budget.

However, a benchmark, based on the total level of expenditure against the total number of troops deployed in theatre in any given period, would equate to approximately £390,000 per service person as set out by the Prime Minister on 4 September 2009.

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the security situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [306468]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]*: I discuss the security situation in Afghanistan with my US counterpart regularly. I spoke to Secretary Gates on 1 December ahead of President Obama's announcement that the United States would send an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan. Most recently, I met Secretary Gates in Afghanistan on 10 December 2009.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects 8 Squadron Royal Air Force to deploy as part of the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force; and what estimate he has made of the cost of the deployment. [306835]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The deployment of personnel and equipment from 8 Squadron, Royal Air Force started on 8 December 2009. The estimated additional cost to the UK of the deployment of the Boeing E3D Sentry detachment is about £1.5 million.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the UK aircraft deployed as part of the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force will fly over Afghan airspace. [306836]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The UK's Boeing E3D Sentry aircraft assigned to support the International Security Assistance Force will operate in Afghan airspace to meet the need for improved air traffic control in Afghanistan.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the UK aircraft deployed as part of the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force will be based. [306837]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As I told the House on 8 December, *Official Report*, columns 14-15WS, the UK's Boeing E3D Sentry detachment that will operate in support of the International Security Assistance Force will be based in the middle east. I am not prepared to be more specific as to do so could harm our international relations.

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans are in place to ensure that Christmas cards and gifts reach British troops serving in Afghanistan in time for Christmas; [307737]

(2) what proportion of Christmas cards and gifts sent to British troops in Afghanistan are expected to reach the troops in time for Christmas. [307741]

**Bill Rammell:** Mail posted before the last date of posting (4 December) will already have arrived in Afghanistan. All mail is expected to be with service personnel by Christmas subject to the availability of space within the supply chain in Afghanistan.

To ensure that mail reaches HM Forces in time for Christmas, MOD published last posting dates via the MOD, BFPO and Royal Mail websites. In addition, extra space on aircraft was allocated to move mail to Afghanistan and additional seasonal staff were employed by BFPO to process the Christmas mail surge.

### Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has made to provide support for soldiers with mental health problems following active service in Iraq. [306949]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** MOD takes very seriously its responsibility to provide high-quality mental health care to its personnel. Diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders in members of the armed forces are performed by trained and accredited mental health personnel. In Iraq, we deployed uniformed mental health nurses to provide in-theatre care and treatment for our personnel. If personnel needed to leave the operational environment, then their care continued either on an out- or in-patient basis in the UK or their permanent base overseas.

In the UK, our mental health services for military personnel are configured to provide community-based mental health care, primarily through our 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) across the UK (plus centres overseas), which provide out-patient mental health care. The DCMH mental health teams, comprising psychiatrists, mental health nurses, clinical psychologists and mental health social workers, have particular expertise in treatments for psychological injury.

For the relatively small number of military patients who need it, in-patient care is currently provided by a group of seven NHS trusts located throughout England and Scotland, led by South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust (SSSFT) through a central MOD contract.

### Armed Forces: Training

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many tactical training areas there are in the West Yorkshire region. [306956]

**Bill Rammell:** The term "tactical training area" is not recognised by the Ministry of Defence. However the term air tactical training is recognised and refers to the three areas of the UK where operational low flying is permitted.

There are no air tactical training areas in West Yorkshire

There are however three training areas in the West Yorkshire area (Ellingham Banks, Laver Banks and Ripon Parks) which are primarily used for low level dry training which does not involve live ammunition.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Officer Training Corps joined *(a)* the regular army and *(b)* the Territorial Army in 2008; and what percentage of the establishment of the corps this represented in each case. [307271]

**Bill Rammell:** In 2008, 271 members of the Officer Training Corps joined the Regular Army Commissioning Courses at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst; 86 members of the Officer Training Corps joined the Territorial Army Commissioning Courses at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst; and 129 members of the Officer Training Corps enlisted as soldiers. These numbers equate to, respectively, 9 per cent., 2.9 per cent. and 4.4 per cent. of the overall establishment of the Corps. In total, just under 50 per cent. of those leaving the Corps as graduates in 2008 went on to embark on a career in the Army.

## Armed Services: Helicopters

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters belonging to each of the armed services are in *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* Afghanistan and *(c)* each other location. [illegible]

**Bill Rammell:** The total number of Army, Royal Air Force (RAF) and Royal Navy helicopters based in the UK (as at 31 October 2009) is shown in the following table.

| *Service* | *Total number of UK-based helicopters* |
|---|---|
| Army | 182 |
| RAF | 167 |
| Navy | 128 |

There are a further 24 helicopters permanently based in Germany, Canada, Belize, Brunei and Oman.

A proportion of the UK-based Army, Navy and Royal Air Force helicopter fleets are currently deployed on expeditionary operations. We do not disclose the exact number of aircraft deployed on operations as to do so would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of these forces.

## Cadets

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which overseas nationalities are permitted to serve in the UK Combined Cadet Force. [illegible]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** All boys and girls over the age of 13 who are pupils of the school are eligible to join the Combined Cadet Force (CCF); there are no nationality restrictions.

There are three different types of adult instructors in the CCF:

1. CCF officers who are part of the Reserve Forces and must meet at least one of the following criteria:

> at all times since birth been a British subject or a citizen of the Irish Republic;
>
> be permanently domiciled in the UK;
>
> have been born in a country or territory which is, or then was, within the Commonwealth or the Irish Republic;
>
> both parents were born in a country or territory which, is or then was, within the Commonwealth or the Irish Republic, or was at death, a British subject or a citizen of the Irish Republic.

2. School Staff Instructors; where there are no nationality restrictions but applications have to be approved by the Brigade.

3. Civilian Instructors; where there are no nationality restrictions but applications have to be approved by the Brigade.

## Caparo Group

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 906W, on Caparo Group, what contracts his Department holds with the Caparo Group and its companies; and what the monetary value of each is. [illegible]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Department currently holds six contracts with the Caparo Group and its companies, totalling £488,784, mainly for automotive parts such as brake products, including discs, fluid and hoses for military support vehicles. I am withholding the breakdown of this information, as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

## Civil Servants: Compensation

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much has been paid out to civil servants in his Department under the Civil Service no-fault compensation scheme in each year since the scheme was established; [306212]

(2) what the 10 highest payments made to civil servants in his Department under the Civil Service no-fault compensation scheme have been on each ground for payment since the scheme was established. [306213]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There is no "civil service no-fault compensation scheme". However, the civil service injury benefits scheme (CSIBS) pays benefits regardless of whether injury or death of an employee results from the negligence of the Crown as the employer. For this reason, benefits are sometimes described as being paid on a no-fault basis. This answer is therefore based on the CSIBS.

The aim of the CSIBS is to provide a guaranteed level of income to the civil servant (or a dependant) where an injury (or death) at work results in the loss of earnings or earnings capacity. No compensation is paid for pain or suffering and benefits are reduced or expunged where damages are awarded for the same accident. Benefits are not payable where the injury or death is wholly or mainly due to the person's own serious and culpable negligence or misconduct.

Departmental records do not provide the value of CSIBS payments in such a way as to allow the questions to be answered as presented and to do so would incur disproportionate cost. However, in the period April to

October 2009 the overall value of permanent awards was £378,622.51. By comparison, in the same period the armed forces compensation scheme paid out £19 million to members of the armed forces injured due to service, and the dependents of those killed due to service.

### Defence: Procurement

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 22W, on defence: procurement, by what mechanism lessons learned from the procurement of the new sniper rifle sight will be applied to future procurement exercises. [307773]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** There were no specific lessons learned from procurement of the Sniper Thermal Imaging Capability. This capability was procured as an Urgent Operational Requirement and met the needs of the users within the expected delivery date.

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [illegible]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on conferences must be incurred in accordance with the principles of the Treasury publications Managing Public Money and Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [illegible]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of the Treasury publications Managing Public Money and Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

### Departmental Finance

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* approved budget for the 10-year equipment budget and *(b)* expenditure on the 10-year equipment programme was in each year since 1997. [illegible]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The MOD does not have an approved equipment budget for the 10-year planning horizon. The most recent comprehensive spending review set the Department's budget for the financial years 2008 to 2011 and departmental expenditure plans after 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. The Department does however have a 10-year Equipment Plan which is used for internal planning purposes only. As a general rule we do not currently comment on the plan as it is based upon internal planning assumptions which are inevitably subject to a significant amount of variation, and their availability could prejudice our commercial interests. In the future, as part of implementing the Bernard Gray recommendations we plan to provide an annual statement of the affordability of the programme against the defence budget.

Expenditure on the 10-year Equipment programme is published in the UK Defence Statistics 2009, Chapter 1—Finance, Table 1.4 and UK Defence Statistics 2002, Chapter 1, Table 1.7.

The UK Defence Statistics 2009, Chapter 1—Finance, Table 1.4 explains the omission of figures for 2001-02 and 2002-03.

### Departmental Information and Communications Technology

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what pay band his Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307568]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Department's chief information officer (CIO) is employed at the senior civil service pay band 2 level, on a permanent contract. The CIO budget is £86.5 million, a significant proportion of which (£55 million) is allocated for spectrum usage charges paid to Ofcom for the frequency bands assigned to MOD.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301171]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Government Car and Despatch Agency is responsible for providing the official car for use by the Secretary of State. Its cost was included in a ministerial statement on the Cost of Ministerial Cars for 2008-09 by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark) on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 79-80WS. The Secretary of State has a car provided as part of the security necessary for the post holder.

The figures for SCS have been published on the MOD website at:

www.mod.uk

### Departmental Publications

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to publish his Department's review of the work undertaken by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary; and if he will make a statement. [307745]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** This review is at an early stage. Progress updates will be provided twice a year alongside the Budget and pre-Budget reports.

## Departmental Sick Leave

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days of sickness absence were taken by staff in his Department and its agencies in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of such absence. [305551]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information is not held in the format requested. MOD sickness figures are published in annual report available in the Library of House and quarterly on the MOD website at the following link:

www.mod.uk

## Departmental Standards

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to publish his Department's Autumn Performance Report. [307356]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Department's Autumn Performance Report was published on 8 December. It can be found at the following link:

www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/CB53888A-8BF0-40B4-827D-541DB9C44C9D/0/modpsa_20091201_q2_autumn.pdf

## Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the (i) subject and (ii) location of each away day was. [306755]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** MOD is dedicated to developing its staff and provides training and development opportunities to help employees realise their full potential and support the achievement of business objectives. Away days can be a vital part of that process.

Information on away days attended by civil servants is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the organisation of meetings outside the Department's buildings is based on sound planning and adheres to our policies on propriety and value for money where accommodation costs and other charges are involved.

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307520]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** MOD is dedicated to developing its staff and provides training and development opportunities to help employees realise their full potential and support the achievement of business objectives. Away days and conferences can be a vital part of that process.

Information on away days and conferences attended by civil servants is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the organisation of meetings outside the Department's buildings is based on sound planning and adheres to our policies on propriety and value for money where accommodation costs and other charges are involved.

## Efficiency Savings

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what efficiency savings have been achieved by his Department in each of the last 10 years; and how much of those savings has been spent on defence. [307406]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Efficiency commitments for financial years 1998-09 to 2001-02 were set out in the 1997 Strategic Defence Review. Further efficiency or value for money targets were set in each subsequent spending review. The way in which savings were measured varied over the period, and so direct comparisons between spending reviews is not possible.

Savings throughout the period were either used to relieve cost pressures or to allow more to be spent on Defence priorities.

*Comprehensive spending review period 1998-99 to 2001-02*

| | *Cumulative savings (cash and resource, £ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1998-1999 | 594 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,126 |
| 2000-01 | 1,549 |
| 2001-02 | 2,012 |

*2002 spending review efficiency programme 2002-03 to 2005-06*

The MOD's spending review 2002 included a target of year-on-year output efficiency gains of 2.5 per cent. from 2002-03 to 2005-06. No overall financial target was set, as savings were measured as the weighted average of performance against a set of process-related supported targets. MOD achieved the overall target of 10 per cent. savings, realised by several specific major change programmes.

*Spending review 2004 for the period 2004-05 to 2006-07—'Gershon' efficiency programme*

| | *Cumulative annual savings (£ million) against April 2004 baseline* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 1,485 |
| 2006-07 | 2,376 |
| 2007-08 | 3,045 |

*Comprehensive review period 2007-08 to 2010-11—value for money programme*

| | *Annual savings (£ million) against April 2008 baseline* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 650 |

Further information on all these savings, including details on how they were measured, can be found in MOD's Annual Report and Accounts, which can be found at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports

## Electronic Warfare

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will require his Department to put in place sufficient resilience policy and practical measures to prevent cyber-attacks on the bases it operates. [303797]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Ministry of Defence has technical and procedural measures in place to protect it from, and mitigate, the impact of cyber attacks, as it does other threats and risks. The MOD conducts exercises to test these measures both internally, and with other Government agencies and our allies. Technical and procedural measures are constantly reviewed to reflect the dynamic nature of the threats. We do not comment on the detail of such protective measures in order not to provide information that could be exploited by a potential attacker.

### Enhanced Learning Credit Scheme

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will allow service personnel who were unable to sign up to the Enhanced Learning Credit scheme due to operational service to sign up to the scheme with retrospective effect. [307231]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Where the reason for non-registration is as a result of their service in an operational theatre, members are already able to submit an application for consideration. If it is accepted to be beyond the individual's control then retrospective registration will be given.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the qualification criteria are for service personnel to be entitled to participate in the Enhanced Learning Credit scheme. [307232]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To be eligible to participate in the Enhanced Learning Credits scheme, service personnel must register for scheme membership either on enlistment or on the anniversary of their 8th year of service.

For service personnel who were serving prior to 1 April 2003, registration had to be completed by 1 April 2004. Where for service reasons they could not, applications can be submitted for retrospective registration.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, (b) special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305664]

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for how many nights hotel rooms were booked by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the armed forces in each year since 2007; [304827]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the armed forces have spent on hotel accommodation in each year since 2007. [304828]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided in that format only at disproportionate cost.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the armed forces have spent on hotel costs other than accommodation in each year since 2007. [304829]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** This information is not distinguishable from other types of subsistence cost, whether related to hotels or not. It could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the armed forces paid in fees to third-party agents in relation to booking hotel accommodation in each year since 2007. [304830]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Information is not held in the format requested and could be provided in that format only at disproportionate cost.

### Joint Rapid Reaction Force

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which brigade forms the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF); whether it is presently fully equipped; whether the present JRRF is deployed; and when the future JRRF will take over from the present JRRF. [304362]

**Bill Rammell:** The Army commitment to the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF) was originally centred on the Spearhead Land Element (SLE), the lead Airborne Task Force (ABTF) and the High Readiness Mechanised or Armoured Brigade. In February 2008, due to the deployment of 16 Air Assault Brigade to Afghanistan, the ABTF was replaced by the Small Scale Focused Intervention Battlegroup (SSFI BG). Due to our commitment to prioritise operations in Afghanistan, the ABTF has not yet been re-established. Instead the land elements of the JRRF that are currently held at high readiness are the Spearhead Land Element (SLE) and Small Scale Contingent Battle Group (SSC BG). The SLE is based on 1st Battalion the Royal Irish Regiment. The SSC BG is provided by 42 Commando, Royal Marines.

Both the SLE and the SSC BG are equipped according to their readiness states and neither is currently deployed.

### Military Aircraft

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Royal Navy (i) fixed wing aircraft and (ii) helicopters are deployed in (A) Iraq and (B) Germany. [302827]

**Bill Rammell:** There are no UK fixed wing aircraft or helicopters deployed in Iraq.

There are 12 Lynx helicopters from the Army Air Corps based in Gutersloh, Germany, but no UK fixed wing aircraft.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft in the UK helicopter fleet are contracted from the private sector; how many of each type; and what the duration of each hire is. [306459]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The contracts for the contractor owned military registered (COMR) helicopter fleets with UK armed forces are let on the basis of a contracted number of flying hours and availability. The actual numbers of airframes and specific aircraft types used in the fulfilment of the contract are a matter for the contractor to decide, based on their commercial and technical judgement.

The following table gives the unit that utilises the contracted helicopters, the aircraft type currently provided by the contractor, the number of hours per annum required by the contract and the dates the contract commenced and when it is currently due to expire. Some of the contracts have clauses to provide extensions to that expiry date, subject to the agreement of both parties.

| *Unit* | *Type of aircraft* | *Flying hours per annum* | *Contract commenced* | *Contract expires* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Defence Helicopter Flying School (DHFS) | Eurocopter Squirrel and Bell Griffin HT1 | 28,000 (Squirrel); 8,500 (Griffin) | November 1996 | 31 March 2012 |
| Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) | Eurocopter AS 3 65 Dauphin | 1,500 | 1 September 2004 | 31 March 2011 |
| 25 Flt AAC, Belize | Bell 212 | 1,200 | 1 October 2008 | 30 September 2013 |
| 7 Flt AAC, Brunei | Bell 212 | 1,200 | 1 October 2008 | 30 September 2013 |
| 670 Sqn AAC, Middle Wallop | Bell 212 | 225 | 1 October 2008 | 30 September 2013 |
| 32 Sqn, RAF Northolt | Agusta A109E | 900 | 1 April 2006 | 31 March 2011 |
| 84 Sqn, RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus | Bell Griffin HAR2 | 1,600 | 1 April 2003 | 31 March 2010 |

DHFS consists of 705NAS, 660 Squadron AAC, 60(R) Sqn RAF and Central Flying School (Helicopter) all based at RAF Shawbury, Search and Rescue Training Unit at RAF Valley and elements of 668 and 670 Squadrons AAC at Middle Wallop.

In addition the following contracts for civilian registered and crewed helicopters are let.

| *Unit* | *Type of aircraft* | *Flying hours per annum* | *Contract commenced* | *Contract expires* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI) | Sikorsky S61N | 1,800 | 1 July 2005 | 30 June 2011 |
| FOST | Sikorsky S61N | 200 | Awarded as extension to Dauphin contract | 31 March 2011 |

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his most recent assessment is of helicopter availability to the armed forces; what equipment assessment was made in each of the last five years; and what forecast he has made of changes to helicopter availability in the next five years; [306543]

(2) what assessment he has made of the helicopter availability requirements of the armed forces in the next 18 to 60 months. [306546]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Department plans its current and future helicopter force on the basis of an assessment of the capability required to achieve military success in a range of military tasks and operational scenarios. For instance our helicopter force is currently required to support: overseas expeditionary operations in Afghanistan, anti-piracy and other maritime operations and support to the civil authorities within the UK. The Royal Navy and RAF Sea King fleets also contribute to the provision of Search and Rescue Capability. A proportion of the fleet is at all times engaged in providing live training to crews, ensuring they are fully prepared for deployment on current operations and contingent tasks.

Our helicopter requirements are kept under constant review. The requirement for helicopter capability on operations is set by the Permanent Joint Headquarters. Our current fleet is meeting the operational requirement but we recognise we can always do more with more, and this is why Secretary of State for Defence, right hon. Bob Ainsworth announced on 15 December 2009 a new Future Rotary Wing Strategy, of which the key element is the procurement of at Chinook helicopters delivering some 40 per cent. more support helicopters suitable for operations in demanding environments such as Afghanistan by 2016. The new strategy will also see the retirement of the whole Sea King fleet by early 2016 allowing the MOD to operate, by around 2022 four broadly equal sized core helicopter fleets of Chinook, Apache, Wildcat and Merlin.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment was made in the best practical environmental options selection study for the Enriched Uranium Project of the merits of the purchase from the US of enriched uranium components for *(a)* the naval nuclear propulsion programme and *(b)* the nuclear warhead programme. [305748]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** A wide range of factors were taken into account in identifying a preferred means of meeting the enriched uranium requirements of the Defence

Nuclear Programme. These included safety, the environment, risk, cost-effectiveness, security of supply and security classification considerations. I am withholding further details for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

### Project Catara

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether an Airspace Study has been completed in connection with Project Catara. [307118]

**Bill Rammell:** The airspace issues relating to Project Catara were considered as part of the Strategic Review of RAF Brize Norton, RAF Lyneham and RAF St. Mawgan, the primary outcome of which was a decision to collocate air transport assets at RAF Brize Norton. It was considered that airspace implications did not preclude such a move.

However, consideration of potential airspace issues relating to the expansion of RAF Brize Norton's role remains ongoing.

### RAF Bases

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the RAF liaison officer is the commanding officer at *(a)* RAF Croughton, *(b)* RAF Barford St. John, *(c)* RAF Menwith Hill, *(d)* RAF Fairford, *(e)* RAF Welford *(f)* RAF Alconbury, *(g)* RAF Molesworth, *(h)* RAF Lakenheath and *(i)* RAF Mildenhall. [307288]

**Bill Rammell:** RAF Croughton, RAF Barford St. John, RAF Menwith Hill, RAF Fairford, RAF Welford, RAF Alconbury, RAF Molesworth, RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall are all made available to the United States Visiting Force (USVF). These sites are commanded by a US officer, usually a United States Air Force officer, at colonel rank.

An RAF commander is present at the main USVF sites, at a lower rank, normally squadron leader. The role of the RAF commander is to liaise with the US base commander and act as head of establishment for Ministry of Defence employees. There are no RAF commanders at RAF Barford St. John, RAF Welford and RAF Molesworth as these sites are administered by other USVF sites.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* US forces personnel, *(b)* US civilians, *(c)* US contractors, *(d)* UK military personnel and *(e)* UK civilians are based at (i) RAF Blenheim Crescent, (ii) RAF Digby and (iii) RAF St. Mawgan; and whether the RAF liaison officer in the commanding officer at each base. [307289]

**Bill Rammell:** The numbers of UK personnel at RAF Digby, RAF St. Mawgan and Blenheim Crescent as at 1 October 2009 are shown in the following table:

| *Site* | *MOD civilian personnel* | *Military personnel* |
|---|---|---|
| RAF Digby | 160 | 510 |
| RAF St. Mawgan | 180 | 210 |
| Blenheim Crescent | — | — |

*Notes:*
1. MOD civilian figures are based on headcount. Figures include MOD main industrial (skill zone) and non-industrial staff.
2. The military personnel figures represent the number of service personnel that are stationed at that location. This may differ from the actual number of people working at that location at that time e.g., due to deployments.

There are 40 UK civilian personnel and contractors employed by the US at Blenheim Crescent.

The numbers of US personnel at RAF Digby, RAF St. Mawgan and Blenheim Crescent as at 1 December 2009 are shown in the following table:

| *Site* | *US military* | *US civilians* | *US contractors* |
|---|---|---|---|
| RAF Digby | 50 | 5 or less | [1]— |
| RAF St Mawgan | [1]— | 5 or less | [1]— |
| Blenheim Crescent | 20 | 40 | 5 or less |

[1] Denotes a count of zero.

*Note:*
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Blenheim Crescent is made available to the United States visiting force and is commanded by a US officer. RAF Digby and RAF St. Mawgan are commanded by an RAF Station Commander.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons there are no RAF personnel at *(a)* RAF Barford St John, *(b)* RAF Blenheim Crescent, *(c)* RAF Welford, *(d)* RAF Molesworth, *(e)* RAF Upwood, *(f)* RAF Feltwell, *(g)* RAF Brampton and *(h)* RAF Henlow; and who the commanding officer is at each base. [307290]

**Bill Rammell:** RAF Barford St. John, RAF Welford, RAF Molesworth, RAF Upwood, RAF Feltwell and Blenhiem Crescent are all made available to the United States visiting force (USVF). These bases are all administered by other USVF sites, and as such, there are no RAF personnel at these sites with the exception of RAF Molesworth where there is one RAF officer present. As with all RAF stations where the USVF are present, the base commander is usually a United States Air Force officer, at colonel rank.

With regard to the numbers of RAF personnel at RAF Brampton and RAF Henlow, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 90W.

### RAF Fairford

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what emergency services will be maintained at RAF Fairford following the withdrawal of the US Air Force in 2010. [306812]

**Bill Rammell:** The current planning intent is to retain 24-hour fire and rescue services making use of Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation (DFRMO) personnel. Details surrounding shift patterns and numbers of personnel are being progressed with DFRMO and US Fire Service personnel at RAF Croughton, with formal trade union consultation expected to commence in January 2010.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on emergency plane diversion plans from RAF Brize Norton of the US Air Force's withdrawal from RAF Fairford in September 2010. [306813]

**Bill Rammell:** The withdrawal of the United States Air Force from RAF Fairford will have no effect in the event of an aircraft having to make an emergency diversion from RAF Brize Norton.

## RAF Lyneham

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of decontamination at a vacated RAF Lyneham were the site to be sold for *(a)* commercial development, *(b)* agricultural purposes and *(c)* continuing military use. [307119]

**Bill Rammell:** It is the Department's policy to undertake a Land Quality Assessment (LQA) in advance of disposal of any site. Until an LQA to support disposal has been completed, it is not possible to give an estimate of costs relating to land contamination. We currently anticipate that an initial LQA of the site will be undertaken in financial year 2010-11.

If no further defence or wider government use can be found for RAF Lyneham, the site will be handed over to Defence Estates late 2012 for disposal on the open market or to former owners. However, it is too early to speculate at this stage what alternative non-military uses of the site might be.

## RAF Welford

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there are Ministry of Defence Police Agency staff based at RAF Welford. [307291]

**Bill Rammell:** There are currently both MOD police officers and members of the MOD Guard Service based at RAF Welford.

## Rescue Services: Pembrokeshire

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects of reduced operational hours at RMB Chivenor on search and rescue operations in Pembrokeshire. [306657]

**Bill Rammell:** With regard to current helicopter Search and Rescue: RMB Chivenor are due to provide 12-hour daytime cover only between 31 December and 7 February as part of a short-term programme of rotating night time closures. However, it is hoped that recent increases in trained SAR personnel may enable a return to 24-hour cover during this period. Arrangements are in place for all UK SAR helicopter units to provide temporary cover if required. The provision of adjacent SAR cover is standard practice and occurs routinely when a SAR helicopter is airborne on a search and rescue sortie or is unserviceable.

When the new Search and Rescue Helicopter (SAR-H) service takes over sometime after 2012, the service provided from RMB Chivenor will operate in the daytime only. In reaching this decision very careful consideration was given to ensuring that the future coverage would still be able to fully meet our national requirement for a night-time SAR Helicopter service to be able to reach all very high, high and 75 per cent. of medium risk areas within one hour from take off. The future SAR Helicopter service will benefit from new modern helicopters which will enable faster transit times to incidents in and from take off. The future SAR Helicopter service will benefit from new modern helicopters which will enable faster transit times to incidents in and around the UK including Pembrokeshire. These helicopters will be some 30 per cent. faster than the current MOD Sea Kings. As a result, the average transit time to all incidents in the Pembrokeshire area and its surrounding coastal waters during the night time (when it would be served by an adjacent base) will be comparable to the current transit times. Historically, over the last five years, RMB Chivenor has responded to a maximum of five incidents per year at night off the coast of Pembrokeshire.

## Security Companies

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* reports of human rights abuses in relation to activities of private military and security companies have been received by his Department awarded contracts by his Department in each of the last five years. [307010]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** No complaint or reports of human rights abuses have been received in connection to the activities of private security companies contracted by the MOD in the last five years.

## Translation Services

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Punjabi speaking translators were available to *(a)* British and *(b)* coalition forces in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in 2004. [305846]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Punjabi was not identified as an operational language in 2004 and has not been identified as such subsequently. There is therefore no record of Punjabi speaking translators available to British forces in 2004 in Iraq or Afghanistan. The MOD does not hold information on the number of Punjabi speaking translators available to coalition forces in either country.

## Trident

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has paid Rolls-Royce for extending the life of the reactors for the Trident submarines. [305482]

**Mr. Quentin Davies** *[holding answer 9 December 2009]*: The Department has spent around £7 million with Rolls-Royce to assess the implications and undertake research work required to support the planned design life extension of the reactor plants, as advised in the 2006 Defence White Paper: The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (Cm 6994).

**Mrs. Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his letter of 28 August 2009 to the hon. Member for Keighley, ref: D/Min(AF)/BR

MC03817/2009, on Trident replacement programme, when he expects to make the initial gate decision on the replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system; and if he will make a statement. [307605]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We had originally planned to consider the Concept Phase in autumn, but further time has been required to ensure that we take decisions based on robust information. We are aiming to be in a position to make an announcement early in the new year.

## OLYMPICS

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside her Office's buildings attended by civil servants in her Office there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307466]

**Tessa Jowell:** Information on away days and conferences attended by civil servants in the Cabinet Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will be covered in the answers provided by the Minister of State for the Cabinet Office and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at DCMS, respectively.

### Olympic Games 2012: Culture

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many programmes have been launched in each region as part of the Cultural Olympiad. [307133]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) works with the Cultural Olympiad Board and delivery partners throughout the cultural sector to deliver the Cultural Olympiad.

Many of the Major Projects that form the centerpiece of the Cultural Olympiad will have a regional dimension. Three of these have already launched—'Artists Taking The Lead', 'Stories of the World' and 'Unlimited'.

There is also a grassroots programme of cultural celebration led by LOCOG. This forms two parts. Firstly, London 2012 Open Weekend was held in September 2008 to launch the Cultural Olympiad, and then again in July 2009 to mark '3 Years To Go'. Secondly, LOCOG has developed the 'Inspire Mark', a version of the London 2012 brand for community use to launch or support local and legacy projects genuinely inspired by the Games. Details of these appear in the following table.

*Grassroots Cultural Olympiad projects by region, December 2009*

| *Region* | *Open weekend 2008* | *Open weekend 2009* | *Inspire mark* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Northern Ireland | 20 | 19 | 11 |
| Scotland | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Wales | 5 | 19 | 8 |
| London | 311 | 230 | 63 |
| East | 49 | 27 | 21 |
| East Midlands | 15 | 72 | 10 |
| South East | 74 | 189 | 23 |
| South West | 45 | 47 | 25 |
| North East | 38 | 33 | 13 |
| North West | 41 | 55 | 19 |
| West Midlands | 39 | 54 | 14 |
| Yorkshire | 16 | 49 | 10 |
| UK/multi-region | — | — | 43 |
| Total | 655 | 798 | 261 |

### Olympic Games 2012: Security

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) what estimate she has made of the cost of the installation of the biometric hand and iris scanners for workers at the Olympic Park; [304865]

(2) how many biometric hand and iris scanners *(a)* have been and *(b)* are planned to be installed at the Olympic Park; [304918]

(3) what recent estimate she has made of the unit cost of obtaining iris information from an individual scanned at the Olympic Park; [304919]

(4) what the cost is of each biometric *(a)* hand and *(b)* iris scanner installed at the Olympic Park. [304864]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is committed to ensuring that the Olympic Park, venues and the work force engaged there are protected through proportionate security measures. Access controls, including the use of the latest technology, enable properly authorised, equipped and trained workers to enter and leave the Olympic Park quickly and safely.

To date, 43 hand readers and nine iris readers have been installed on the Olympic Park. The total number planned for installation is 65 and 13 respectively. The cost of each biometric hand and iris scanner is £1,416 for hand readers, and £2,824 for iris readers.

The estimated total cost of the installation of both hand and iris readers will be approximately £180,000, including installation and maintenance costs.

The iris biometric is an alternative to the hand geometry biometric, to facilitate the biometric enrolment of those workers on the Olympic Park who may have difficulty using the hand geometry system. Biometric access controls are routinely used on many major UK construction sites. The Olympic Park is the largest construction site in Europe, and we take our responsibility for the health and safety of the work force, and local residents very seriously.

Biometric checks are used to control access to the site only after the identity of individuals has been verified, including by the UK Borders Agency. After verification of identity, individuals go through an enrolment process, a small part of which is the capture of biometric data, which carries no additional cost. When individuals are then scanned upon entry to the park site, biometrics are checked against the data captured during the enrolment process.

### Olympic Games 2012: West Midlands

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many new sporting facilities are to be created in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Staffordshire arising from the London 2012 Olympics. [301614]

**Tessa Jowell:** Exchequer funding for sport has almost doubled since London's Olympic win in Singapore. In the three years up to the IOC vote in 2005 the amount of Exchequer funding from DCMS was £313 million, in the three years following it was £580 million.

Sport England is investing £480 million of Exchequer and lottery funds through 46 national governing bodies over the next four years to deliver this target and increase participation throughout the country. A proportion of the £480 million will be invested into capital facilities throughout the country.

The Government have provided £140 million for Free Swimming. This has helped deliver 10.4 million free swims for under 16s and over 60s around the country between April and September 2009. There are two new swimming pools in the West Midlands that have received funding from the Free Swimming Capital Modernisation Fund which will be completed in the next few months. Between June and September 2009 there have been 1,414,817 free swims in the West Midlands.

In the West Midlands the percentage of adults participating in sport at least three times a week increased from 14.5 per cent. in 2005-06 to 14.9 per cent. in 2007-08. In Staffordshire the percentage of adults participating in sport at least three times a week increased from 15.8 per cent. to 17.4 per cent. (The national average was 15.5 per cent. in 2005-06 and 16.5 per cent. in 2007-08).

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games is actively seeking a games-time football venue in the Midlands.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* British and *(b)* Afghan speakers of each Afghan language are employed in Afghanistan by his Department. [301942]

**Chris Bryant:** Language training requirements for staff working in Afghanistan are kept under regular review. We work to balance cost-effectiveness of training with the need to support high-quality diplomatic engagement in country. For many jobs in-country, such as those which require little or no contact with Afghans outside the embassy, no local language skills are necessary. It is more cost effective to employ locally-recruited Afghan staff in many positions which require local language skills.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently has six UK based officers with a relevant language proficiency deployed in Afghanistan, five with Dari and one with Pashtu. We employ locally-recruited Afghan staff in many positions which require local language skills. For example, where we need to engage in Helmand Province at high levels, we will always use one of our 10 qualified locally engaged Pashtu interpreters to ensure that both sides fully understand the issues being discussed. In Kabul there are 66 Afghan staff working alongside staff from the UK, in Lashkar Gah 18 and in Helmand's district centres a further 11 who between them all speak Dari and Pashtu.

### Angad Paul

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with Angad Paul in each of the last three years. [302870]

**David Miliband:** Ministers and officials meet a variety of individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. There is no central record of all individuals met by officials. A list of organisations met by Ministers is regularly placed on the FCO website at

http://foi.fco.gov.uk/en/released-documents/view-releases/releases-date-2009.

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in implementing the Final Declaration of the London conference on combating anti-Semitism, with particular reference to *(a)* establishing an international taskforce of internet specialists to measure anti-Semitism online and propose international responses and *(b)* exposing and isolating (i) governments and (ii) politicians engaging in anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [305397]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government are committed to tackling anti-Semitism. We condemn all instances of persecution and discrimination against individuals and groups wherever they occur.

The recommendations of the London Declaration has informed activity both within cross-Government hate crime programmes and in our international work, particularly within the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister became the first world leader to sign the London Declaration on Combating Anti-Semitism on 25 February 2009 and on signing the declaration he said

> "So many of the principles it enshrines are already things we are doing here in Britain and while I'm proud of the bold action Britain has taken to combat anti-Semitism such as improved reporting, prosecutions for anti-Semitic internet hate and the funding of Holocaust Education in schools, there is no room for complacency."

The Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan includes activity in support of the declaration and was launched on 14 September. It can be viewed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/hate-crime-action-plan

More recently in December the OSCE Ministerial Council agreed a Decision on Combating Hate Crimes. It contains helpful UK-inspired language on addressing "the increasing use of the Internet to advocate views constituting an incitement to bias-motivated violence including hate crimes". It also encourages OSCE participating states to seek opportunities to co-operate and tasks the OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to undertake some exploratory work.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305683]

**Chris Bryant:** In the last 12 months the cost of work undertaken in the offices allocated to two Ministers has totalled £6,973. This has covered the scheduled redecoration and re-carpeting of one office last redecorated more than 10 years ago at a cost of £5,385 (£2,762 for redecoration, £2,226 for re-carpeting and £398.96 for management of the works) and the repainting of walls in a second office at a cost of £1,588. Costs were met from existing maintenance budgets.

### Departmental Contracts

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 320-324W, on departmental contracts, what the purpose was of the contracts worth *(a)* £103,885 and *(b)* £131,684, listed as Staff Replacements; when those funds were disbursed to TPS consult; what assessment was made of the benefits to his Department of that expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [305477]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has a framework agreement for construction consultancy services with 15 companies, one of which is TPS Consult. In 2008, Estate and Security Group of FCO Services (an executive agency of the FCO operating as a trading fund) used this framework for two security cleared technical staff from TPS Consult to fill vacant slots whilst a recruitment process was carried out to fill the vacancies permanently.

Since question 285289 on 14 July, updated figures for contract *(a)* show that a total of £117,675 has now been paid in fourteen separate payments for the services of an electrical engineer between May 2008 and September 2009. This contract has since been terminated and a permanent incumbent recruited. Details of individual payments are contained in the attached spreadsheet for contract *(a)*, a copy of which will be placed in the Library.

Updated figures for contract *(b)* show that a total of £138,612 has been paid in 12 separate payments for the services of an architectural technician between May 2008 and September 2009. This contract remains extant and is under constant review. Details of individual payments are contained in the attached spreadsheet for contract *(b)*, a copy of which will be placed in the Library.

Assessments of benefits were made by FCO Services, in the form of the business plan and their ability to continue to provide the services they had been contracted to deliver.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305502]

**Chris Bryant:** Statistics published by the Ministry of Justice on freedom of information in central Government for 2008 show that of a total of 1,019 non-routine requests received by the Department (based on aggregated quarterly data) 80 per cent. (815) received a substantive response within 20 days. 98 per cent. (994) of requests were dealt with 'in time', that is within 20 days by meeting the deadline or other permitted extension deadline.

The statistics can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

and copies are available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff of his Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306716]

**Chris Bryant:** The corporate pool is a valuable source of short-term cover for urgent operational demands, for example the recently announced Afghanistan conference, where corporate pool resources have been essential. However, it is kept under constant review to ensure that the number of people in the pool is kept at the optimum level.

The size of the pool during 2009 was as follows.

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| January | 228 |
| April | 232 |
| July | 218 |
| October | 215 |

Over 90 per cent. of staff in the corporate pool were deployed to departments or on language or other pre-posting training. The October figures represent 4.6 per cent. of total UK-based staff.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the FCO-DfID Shared Services Plan of November 2006, which body is responsible for assessing in each instance whether sharing services represent value for money; and what criteria are used in making such an assessment. [307055]

**David Miliband:** Under the 2006 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)-Department for International Development (DFID) Shared Services Plan the two Departments have agreed to work together to share services wherever it represents value for money.

Work to date has focused on increasing co-location of FCO and DFID operations in countries where both departments have a presence, harmonising the pay and conditions of support staff, increasing collaboration in procurement, coordinating ICT plans, and improving practical cooperation in the UK and overseas.

The two Departments meet quarterly at senior official level to review progress. They seek in these discussions to make joint assessments of whether co-operation in a given area is delivering value for money and the other practical benefits which the plan aims to achieve.

### Departmental Official Gifts

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what official gifts he and his predecessors have received from the President of Afghanistan and other Ministers in the Pakistani government in each year since 2001. [307743]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government have published annual lists of gifts given and received by Ministers in an official capacity valued at over £140 since 2001. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July 2009.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials within his Department received training other than language training in financial year *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; and how many he expects to receive such training in 2009-10. [307048]

**David Miliband:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides a wide range of developmental and skills training to staff in the UK and overseas. This includes face-to-face training in the UK and through regional training centres overseas (RTCs) and e-learning courses. In financial year 2008-09 human resources directorate offered about 1,929 face-to-face training places in the UK and 10,231 places through RTCs. More than 4,450 staff in the UK and overseas used e-learning courses.

Directorates and posts in the FCO also provide subject specific training, for example on economic reporting, counter terrorism, security, information technology, climate change. It would incur a disproportionate cost to provide details of the number of staff trained by directorates and posts as this information is not held centrally.

The number of training places we offer in financial year 2010-11 will depend on the budget available. Providing appropriate training for staff in the UK and overseas will remain an important tool in helping staff deliver the FCO's departmental strategic objectives effectively.

### Departmental Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302735]

**Chris Bryant:** In the course of his official duties, the Foreign Secretary normally travels by car, consistent with the Ministerial Code:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/propriety_and_ethics/assets/ministerial_code_current.pdf

and security requirements.

### Hezbollah

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the Government will be holding discussions with Hezbollah; whether there are any preconditions attached to these discussions; who will be attending these discussions on behalf of the Government; and if he will make a statement. [306093]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Government policy towards Hezbollah is one of limited and considered contacts with some Hezbollah politicians. We will be taking a pragmatic approach by speaking to known moderate political figures who, to the best of our knowledge, have no links with acts of violence.

Other than these, there are no established preconditions at present.

There has only been one specific meeting between our ambassador in Beirut and an Hezbollah MP, Mohammad Raad, on 18 June 2009. During this meeting the ambassador discussed the formation of the new Lebanese Government, and implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701. Our ambassador pressed for full implementation of 1701, especially in relation to arms.

In the future, where we have contacts, members of our embassy in Beirut will represent the Government accordingly.

### Libya

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the *(a)* amount and *(b)* technological sophistication of biological and chemical material shipped from Libya to the US for evaluation. [306916]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK and US have regular discussions about Libya's progress towards its 2003 commitment to destroy all remaining weapons of mass destruction. The US report that there have been no shipments of chemical and biological material and there are no plans to do so.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead dated 28 October 2009, on a difficulty experienced in corresponding with the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria. [307319]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office did not receive the original letter from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead. Following a call to the hon. Member's parliamentary office on 11 December 2009, a copy has now been received and will be dealt with as soon as possible.

## Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports the Government have received in respect of *(a)* military activity at al-Quads hospital in Gaza on 15 January 2009, *(b)* the use of white phosphorous shells during the attack by Israeli forces on (i) al-Quads hospital and (ii) al-Wafa hospital and *(c)* the use made of the site of (A) the el-Bader flour mill and (B) the Atta Abu Jubbah cement packaging plant in the Gaza Strip prior to their targeting by Israeli forces during January 2009. [306677]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** There have been various reports conducted into the Gaza conflict, some by human rights organisations such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. However, these specific issues are covered in the Government of Israel's July 2009 report "The Operation in Gaza: Factual and Legal Aspects" and the UN Fact Finding Mission on Gaza Report.

Copies of these reports can be found at:

http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Terrorism-+Obstacle+to+Peace/Hamas+war+against+Israel/Operation_in_Gaza-Factual_and_Legal_Aspects.htm

and

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/12session/A-HRC-12-48.pdf.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has been clear from the beginning of the Gaza conflict that all allegations of violations of international humanitarian law committed by anyone during the conflict should be properly investigated.

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received on the directions given to civilians in Gaza by Palestinian armed groups in respect of going to or remaining at sites targeted for attack under Operation Cast Lead. [306679]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** There have been various reports conducted into the Gaza conflict, some by human rights organisations such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. However, the specific issue of directions given to civilians in Gaza by Palestinian armed groups is documented in the Government of Israel's July 2009 report "The Operation in Gaza: Factual and Legal Aspects" (paragraphs 186 to 189) and the UN Fact Finding Mission on Gaza Report.

Copies of these reports can be found at:

http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Terrorism-+Obstacle+to+Peace/Hamas+war+against+Israel/Operation_in_Gaza-Factual_and_Legal_Aspects.htm

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http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/12session/A-HRC-12-48 .pdf

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has been clear from the beginning of the Gaza conflict that all allegations of violations of international humanitarian law committed by anyone during the conflict should be properly investigated.

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received on the use of *(a)* hospital facilities and *(b)* ambulances by (i) the authorities in Gaza and (ii) Palestinian armed groups during Operation Cast Lead. [306680]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** There have been various reports conducted into the Gaza conflict, some by human rights organisations such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. However, the specific allegations of misuse of medical facilities and ambulances is documented in the Government of Israel's July 2009 report "The Operation in Gaza: Factual and Legal Aspects" (pp64-67, paragraphs 171 to 180) and the UN Fact Finding Mission on Gaza Report (page 117).

Copies of these reports can be found at:

http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Terrorism-+Obstacle+to+Peace/Hamas+war+against+Israel/Operation_in_Gaza-Factual_and_Legal_Aspects.htm

and

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/12session/A-HRC-12-48.pdf

The Foreign Secretary has been clear from the beginning of the Gaza conflict that all allegations of violations of international humanitarian law committed by anyone during the conflict should be properly investigated.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on *(a)* the number of incidents in which Israeli military forces have fired on Gazan (i) farmers and (ii) fishermen in each of the last four quarters and *(b)* the resultant injuries. [306776]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** According to the UN in 2009 (to November) one fisherman has been killed, 24 fishermen and six farmers have been injured as a result of warning shots fired by Israeli forces.

The UK recognises Israel's right to defend itself but calls upon the Israeli Government to act with restraint and in accordance with international law.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on Israeli naval restrictions on Gazan fishermen. [306784]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Israeli restrictions on Gaza, including those on Gazan fisherman, continue to have a detrimental effect on the Gazan economy. We are clear in our call for Israel to relax its restrictions on Gaza.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Prime Minister has received a response to his joint letter of 16 October 2009 with President Sarkozy to his Israeli counterpart on the report of the UN Fact Finding Mission to Gaza; and whether the Israeli Government has taken any of the actions requested in the letter. [306798]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The joint letter was the culmination of substantive discussions between my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, President Sarkozy and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu ahead of an important vote in the Human Rights Council on the serious issues raised by the UN Fact Finding Mission on Gaza report. Ministers have followed-up with further discussions, notably my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary with his Israeli counterpart on 25 November 2009 and the Secretary of State for International Development with Defence Minister Barak on 1 December 2009.

On 25 November 2009, the Israeli Government announced a 10-month moratorium on settlement construction in the West Bank. The Foreign Secretary made clear in a statement that same day that we want this announcement by Israel to become a step towards resuming meaningful negotiations to achieve the vision of two states living side by side in peace and security, based on 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as a shared capital, and a fair settlement for refugees.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the role of the Iranian Qods force in terrorist activity in the Middle East; and if he will make a statement. [307117]

**David Miliband:** The Qods Force (QF) is a branch of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Force (IRGC). We have previously expressed concern that the IRGC and the IRGC-QF are involved in training, equipping and supplying, to varying degrees, Iraqi armed militia groups, the Taliban, Hezbollah, Hamas and other Palestinian Rejectionist Groups. This further undermines international confidence in the Iranian regime's intentions, and is at odds with the regime's claims to the international community and its own people to want to work for stability, security and prosperity.

### Morocco

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with the Moroccan Ambassador to the UK the matter of the movement of Moroccan settlers to occupied Western Sahara. [304824]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government have not discussed the movement of population between Morocco and Western Sahara with the Moroccan ambassador to the UK and have no plans to discuss the matter with Her Highness at this time.

The Government see the status of Western Sahara as undetermined and continue to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute, providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. To this end the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, Christopher Ross.

### Origin Marking: Morocco

**Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the labelling of produce originating from territories occupied by *(a)* Morocco and *(b)* Israel. [305506]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** On 10 December my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs tabled a written ministerial statement concerning technical advice on the labelling of produce from the Occupied Palestinian Territories. That advice has been issued in response to consumer and retailer conce[illegible] about a lack of clarity on whether such produce comes from Israeli settlements or Palestinian producers.

We do not regard the two situations as comparable and there is no technica[illegible]ice in place for commercial products originating from the territory of Western Sahara. For example the Government regard the status of Western Sahara, as distinct from the Occupied Palestinian Territories, as undetermined pending resolution under the auspices of the UN.

### Palestinians

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what evidence his Department has evaluated on the uses to which the Palestinian Legislative Council building in Gaza was put before December 2008. [306678]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have no reports of the use of the Palestinian Legislative Council building, other than by Hamas as an administrative building.

### Palestinians: International Assistance

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request his Israeli counterpart to allow aid items into Gaza. [illegible]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We continue to press the Israeli authorities, both at an official and ministerial level, to ease border restrictions into Gaza and allow the passage of essential humanitarian aid and reconstruction material. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this, during a telephone conversation, with his counterpart on 25 November 2009. These concerns were also highlighted by the EU Foreign Ministers at their meeting on 8 December 2009.

### Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Armstrong Formula was introduced in relation to peacekeeping costs; and when and for what reasons its usage was withdrawn. [307051]

**David Miliband:** The Armstrong formula was introduced in 1984 during a period of relative stability in UN peacekeeping. Vote responsibility for all peacekeeping operations rested with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and money was annually allocated to the FCO in the public expenditure survey to meet these costs. Under the Armstrong formula, in the event of an unforeseen increase that could not be met in-year from within existing funds, and subject to Treasury agreement, the FCO had recourse to Treasury's central contingency reserve.

Peacekeeping activities increased sharply in the early and mid 1990s, and peace support operations became more complex, requiring a broader range of political, military, development and economic activities. In 2001 two new tri-departmental Conflict Prevention Pools (the Africa and Global Conflict Prevention Pools) were established with strands for both peacekeeping and programme activity. Under current arrangements, the first £374 million of assessed contributions are met by HM Treasury and costs above that are borne by FCO, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development from the Conflict Pools and/or from within departmental expenditure limits.

### Russia: Detainees

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Russian government on President Medvedev's aim to reduce the level of legal nihilism in that country; and if he will make a statement. [307492]

**Chris Bryant:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary had detailed and wide ranging discussions with Foreign Minister Lavrov when he visited Moscow from 1-3 November 2009 including on the importance of the rule of law. I also discussed these issues during my recent meetings with Deputy Foreign Ministers Karasin and Grushko.

We welcome President Medvedev's focus on the need to strengthen the rule of law in Russia, including his focus on tackling corruption and promoting the independence of the judiciary. Promoting the rule of law, including the independence of the judiciary, is a key element of the UK's and EU's engagement with Russia. These issues were raised in the last EU/Russia human rights consultations on 5 November 2009. The annual UK/Russia bilateral human rights talks have enabled us to raise our concerns and we will do so again at the next talks planned for early 2010.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently provides funding for work on preventing false charges from being made by law enforcement agencies and increasing awareness of the importance of complying with international human rights standards across the criminal justice system.

### Security Companies

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to respond to the public consultation on promoting high standards of conduct by private military and security companies. [306914]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) launched a public consultation on the Government's proposed policy to promote high standards of conduct in the Private Military and Security Companies industry internationally on 24 April 2009.

We received detailed responses from over 20 organisations and individuals. Officials have analysed these in detail. We will publish the final summary of responses, including a Government response to the contributions received, today, 16 December 2009, on the FCO website. This will be announced by a written ministerial statement laid before the House on the same day.

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department *(a)* has had and *(b)* is planning to have with US officials on regulation of private military and security companies in Iraq and Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [307012]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has maintained a regular dialogue with US officials on the question of international regulation of private military and security companies (PMSCs), since June 2008. The US, UK and Swiss Governments in conjunction with industry representatives, relevant trade associations and non-governmental organisations have been working together to agree a set of draft international standards for the PMSC industry. We hope to agree these standards in the course of next year.

### Sudan: War Crimes

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the International Criminal Court's citation of Sudan's President al-Bashir. [307659]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have a long-standing position of support for the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC) as an independent judicial body, and also of not commenting substantively on its decisions. We have consistently urged the Government of Sudan to co-operate with the Court, and reiterated our support for peace in Sudan. We continue to monitor the situation closely, and to make clear our expectation that all countries should cooperate with the ICC investigation, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1593 of 2005, and the particular legal obligations of States Party to the ICC.

### Travel Information

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has commissioned from *(a)* within and *(b)* outside his Department studies of the likely effectiveness of (i) his Department's Know Before You Go campaign and (ii) subsidiary campaigns undertaken since 2001. [305475]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Know Before You Go campaign (including its subsidiary campaigns) is evaluated by external agencies on a six monthly basis to ensure targets are being met and that it effectively reaches the population. For example, in 2008-09 the campaign reached an estimated 64 per cent. of UK adults in some cases up to 28.5 times. The report also evaluates value for money, such as number of people reached per £1 spent, and the advertising value equivalent of the campaign. The most recent evaluation showed the return on investment for the campaign as a whole to be over 16:1, i.e. every £1 spent achieved £16 worth of value. In addition, every 6 months a qualitative and quantitative survey is commissioned to monitor changes in travellers' behaviour and attitudes, as well as providing guidance for the future direction of the campaign.

### Uganda: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in what countries the Lords Resistance Army is active; and what recent representations he has made to try to effect a ceasefire in those areas.

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We assess that the largest concentration of the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) is in the Central African Republic, with smaller numbers in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan.

The UK will contribute $400,000 to the existing UN Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo disarmament, demobilisation and repatriation activities, which will be targeted towards encouraging the LRA to end hostilities. We continue to press for greater coordination between peacekeeping operations in the region in pursuing the LRA and to prioritise civilian protection activities.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Departmental Legislation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by the Government Equalities Office since 1 May 2008. [307798]

**Maria Eagle:** Since 1 May 2008, there have been no criminal offences, *(a)* created or *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by the Government Equalities Office.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Devolution: Criminal Justice and Policing

7. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made on the devolution of responsibility for criminal justice and policing to the Northern Ireland Assembly; and if he will make a statement. [306256]

**Mr. Woodward:** Significant progress has been made by the political parties in Northern Ireland to address both the outstanding issues in relation to the completion of devolution of policing and justice and also, in parallel, those other issues arising from St. Andrews—most of which the House will know have already been completed.

### Presbyterian Mutual Society

11. **Mr. Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on the Presbyterian Mutual Society. [306260]

**Paul Goggins:** The Chief Secretary and the Secretary of State are both members of the ministerial working group set up by the Prime Minister.

They, along with Ministers from the Northern Ireland Executive, have been in regular contact in an attempt to find ways to assist members of the Society whose investments were affected by the Society's entry into administration.

### Police Intelligence Gathering

12. **Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland on intelligence gathering by the police. [306261]

**Paul Goggins:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has discussions with the ombudsman on a range of issues from time to time, but has had no recent discussions on intelligence-gathering.

### Dissident Republicans

13. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the proportion of dissident republicans in Northern Ireland who were previously members of the Provisional IRA. [306262]

**Mr. Woodward:** The most recent IMC report indicated that a small number of ex-PIRA members are providing support to dissident groups. It is however clear from the report that PIRA as an organisation remains committed to a peaceful path.

### People Trafficking

14. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has made a recent assessment of the extent to which people are trafficked between Northern Ireland and England. [306263]

**Paul Goggins:** Since the 1 April 2009 the PSNI have recovered 15 victims of human trafficking in Northern Ireland. Victims have travelled to Northern Ireland from other parts of the UK, from the Republic of Ireland and directly via international transit.

### Irish Government Commission: Child Abuse

15. **Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received on the implications for Northern Ireland of the outcome of the Irish Government's commission to inquire into child abuse and other related inquiries; and if he will make a statement. [306264]

**Paul Goggins:** I have received a letter from the Northern Ireland Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety about this matter which I am currently considering. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has also received an email about this matter from a solicitor in Northern Ireland.

### Christmas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305617]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table shows how many Christmas trees were purchased by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arms length bodies but excluding its agencies, NDPBs and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, in each of the last five years; the cost of those trees; and the process by which the trees were disposed of.

| | Number of trees | Total cost (£) | Disposal process |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 4 | 193 | Chipped and recycled for mulch |
| 2006-07 | 4 | 244 | Chipped and recycled for mulch |
| 2007-08 | 3 | 290 | Chipped and recycled for mulch |
| 2008-09 | 2 | 195 | Chipped and recycled for mulch |
| 2009-10 | 1 | 125 | Chipped and recycled for mulch |

The following table shows how many Christmas trees were purchased by the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, in each of the last five years; the cost of those trees; and the process by which the trees were disposed of.

| | Number of trees | Total cost (£) | Disposal process |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 1 | 223 | Disposed of by the supplier |
| 2006-07 | 4 | 1,363 | Disposed of by the supplier |
| 2007-08 | 3 | 670 | Disposed of by the supplier |
| 2008-09 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2009-10 | 0 | 0 | n/a |

During the defined five year period the PPS has changed from providing real Christmas trees to providing artificial trees.

The following table shows how many Christmas trees were purchased by the Northern Ireland Prison Service, in each of the last five years; the cost of those trees; and the process by which the trees were disposed of.

| | Number of trees | Cost (£) | Disposal |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2006-07 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2007-08 | 1 | 125 | Chipped |
| 2008-09 | 1 | 80 | Chipped |
| 2009-10 | 2 | 170 | Will be recycled as bark chippings |

The Compensation Agency and Youth Justice Agency have had no expenditure on Christmas trees in each of the last five years.

Information in relation to the Forensic Science Agency could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The names of suppliers cannot be disclosed for security reasons. Sustainability of the source of the trees is in the remit of the suppliers.

## Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of each attendance at each conference. [illegible]

**Paul Goggins:** Conferences held overseas that have been attended by civil servants in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland (PPS) but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, in the last three years, and the cost to the public purse of attending these conferences, is shown in the following table.

| | Conference details | Cost (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | North/South Conference on Criminal Justice—Limerick | 270 |
| | International Association of Prosecutors Conference—Netherlands[1] | 1,264 |
| | Counter Terrorism Cooperation—Paris[1] | 542 |
| | Cross Border Extradition—Dublin[1] | 305 |
| 2007-08 | Domestic Abuse Conference, Raising the Standards—Guernsey | 1,100 |
| | International Association of Prosecutors Conference—Netherlands[1] | 1,586 |
| | Anti Fraud Office of the European Union (OLAF) Conference—Germany[1] | 699 |
| | Cross Border Cooperation in Counter Terrorism—Dublin[1] | 491 |
| | MOPED, Commonwealth DPP Conference—Australia[1] | 4,151 |
| 2008-09 | International Conference on Cost of Crime—Milan | 257 |
| | European Evidence Warrant: The Acquisition and Admissibility of Foreign Evidence—Dublin | 1,174 |
| | Anti Fraud Office of the European Union (OLAF) Conference—Dublin[1] | 0 |
| | Extradition Seminar—Rome[1] | 581 |
| | 9th Annual Republic of Ireland National Prosecutors Conference—Dublin[1] | 143 |

[1] Relate to the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland.

Additional expenses may have been paid through expense claim forms but this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principals of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

## Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306069]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, had expenditure on plasma screen televisions in two financial years since 2001. The expenditure, including installation costs, is as follows:

| | Number of plasma screen televisions | At cost of £ |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 2 | 3,195 |
| 2008-09 | 1 | 645.00 |

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days sickness absence were taken by staff in his Department in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of such absence. [305546]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table shows the number of working days lost from April 2009 to October 2009 and the cost to the Northern Ireland Office based on figures provided by Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency.

| | *Total number of working days lost overall* | *Overall cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| April 2009 | 972.8 | 83,837 |
| May 2009 | 920.7 | 77,723 |
| June 2009 | 1,075.2 | 108,357 |
| July 2009 | 916.1 | 93,572 |
| August 2009 | 1,050.7 | 101,502 |
| September 2009 | 1,303.4 | 122,897 |
| October 2009 | 1,198.3 | 117,459 |

### Departmental Taxis

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302708]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, does not record information on miles travelled by taxi so cannot provide an answer to this part of the question.

The NIO Departmental Disposal policy states that financial records do not have to be held longer than seven years. The following table shows the expenditure on taxi fares where costs have been charged to the taxi expenditure code used for invoiced taxi costs from 2003-04 to 2008-09, the last six complete financial years.

Each member of staff is advised that, before any business related journey is made, the most cost-effective means of transport must be considered. Where the use of public transport or private car is not possible or economic, then the journey may be made by taxi.

| | *Ministers* | *Officials* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 1,090 | 18,123 |
| 2004-05 | 754 | 24,102 |
| 2005-06 | 31 | 24,234 |
| 2006-07 | 0 | 28,031 |
| 2007-08 | 0 | 42,455 |
| 2008-09 | 34 | 77,736 |

The increase in expenditure on taxis in the NIO followed a review in 2007 when the Department adopted a policy which made greater use of taxis rather than private hire cars. While this change in policy has led to an increase in the cost of taxis, it has generated estimated whole year net savings of £ 150,000.

Further taxi fares were claimed as reimbursable expenses but due to the processes involved in making these payments, costs can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The NIO keeps the cost of travel on official business under regular review.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305656]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table shows how much the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, and excluding its agencies and NDPBs has spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years.

| | | | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| Ministers | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 1,889 | 5,852 |
| Special Advisers | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 230 | 806 |
| Civil servants | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 198,482 | 200,335 |

[1] Figures not available prior to 2007-08.

Up until 2006-07, hotel expenditure was included within night subsistence costs. To extract only hotel costs in these years would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £750.

Travel by Ministers, special advisers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

Details on overseas visits undertaken by Ministers costing over £500 can also be found on the Cabinet Office website by using the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

### Human Rights Commission: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what payments the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has made to Stratagem in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305159]

**Mr. Woodward:** No payments have been made by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to Stratagem in the last 12 months. On 27 October 2008 the Commission paid Stratagem the sum of £411.25 (£350 plus VAT) for an annual subscription for monthly political updates covering the period 1 August 2008 to 21 July 2009. The service included updates on parliamentary business supplied to staff members by email and SMS. This subscription was not subsequently renewed at the expiry date.

### Terrorism

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the level of activity of dissident Republicans in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [305849]

**Paul Goggins:** As the most recent IMC report confirmed, Dissident Republicans continue to pose a serious threat. However, the devolution of policing and justice has been recognised as a potent intervention in allowing Northern Ireland to move forward.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he plans to respond to question *(a)* 304525 and *(b)* 304526 on devolution of criminal justice and policing, tabled on 1 December 2009. [307611]

**Paul Goggins:** These questions were both answered on 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 533W.

## JUSTICE

### Cemeteries: Islam

**Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what conclusions his Department drew from its 2007 Survey of Burial Grounds regarding cemetery provision for Islamic burial sites in London; [306266]

(2) what plans there are for future burial site provision for Islamic people in London; [306275]

(3) what steps his Department has taken following its 2007 Survey of Burial Grounds in respect of cemetery provision for Islamic burial sites in London. [306276]

**Bridget Prentice:** Provision of burial space in general is a matter for decision by local authorities and other local providers. This Department has no role in that process, but our Guide for Burial Ground Managers encourages consideration to be given, wherever possible, to setting aside areas within cemeteries for use by particular faith communities. Responses to the burial ground survey did not permit any valid conclusions to be drawn as to the level or adequacy of burial space for Muslims either in London, or in England and Wales as a whole, but that was not its primary purpose.

### Convictions: Young People

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children under the age of 16 years have been convicted of criminal offences in each of the last five years. [306449]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of persons aged 10 to 15 years found guilty of criminal offences in all courts in England and Wales, from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is provided in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

*The number of persons aged 10 to 15 years found guilty at all courts for all offences, England and Wales 2003-07*[1, 2]

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 33,484 |
| 2004 | 35,656 |
| 2005 | 37,121 |
| 2006 | 37,300 |
| 2007 | 38,761 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

### Crime

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 470W, on crime, how many people were *(a)* found guilty at all courts and *(b)* cautioned for all offences in (i) 1987 and (ii) 1988. [306415]

**Maria Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend (Claire Ward) on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 470W.

### Data Protection

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislation to make custodial sentences mandatory for serious offences of breach of privacy and confidentiality through negligent loss, sale or abuse of personal data. [306539]

**Mr. Wills:** There are no plans to do so. The Government do not believe that mandatory custodial sentences are appropriate other than in exceptional circumstances: it is the function of the Court to decide the sentence in each individual case, subject to the maximum that Parliament has provided and any guidelines that may be laid down by the Sentencing Guidelines Council or the Court of Appeal.

However, the Government are consulting on the introduction of custodial sentences as a potential sanction for individuals who commit offences relating to the knowing or reckless misuse of personal data under section 55 of the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). The consultation also seeks views on introducing a defence for those who can show that they acted for journalistic, artistic or literary purposes with a view to publishing journalistic, literary or artistic material, in the reasonable belief that they acted in the public interest. The consultation closes on 7 January 2010 and can be viewed at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/misuse-personal-data.htm

The Government have also recently launched a consultation on setting the maximum level for a Civil

Monetary Penalty that the Information Commissioner could serve on data controllers who commit serious contraventions of the data protection principles, as set out in the DPA. The consultation closes on 21 December 2009 and can be viewed at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/civil-monetary-penalties-consultation.htm

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of his Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306713]

**Mr. Wills:** All staff seeking redeployment are gainfully employed and undertaking roles within the Ministry. They are engaged in work contributing to the delivery of public services, including core frontline activities, policy and project work and other operational roles. The number of staff who were actively seeking permanent redeployment are shown in the following table:

| *Reporting month* | *Total number of staff actively seeking permanent redeployment*[1] |
|---|---|
| January 2009 | [2]33 |
| April 2009 | [2]23 |
| July 2009 | 246 |
| October 2009 | 219 |

[1] The figures above comprise both full-time and part-time staff

[2] The data provided for 1 January and 1 April 2009, excludes redeployees from the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) because during this period there was at the time no system in place for recording such staff.

### Jersey: EC law

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when officials of his Department last met representatives of the authorities in Jersey to discuss the implementation of the *(a)* Food Supplements Directive and *(b)* Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation. [307052]

**Mr. Wills:** Ministry of Justice officials last met representatives of the authorities in Jersey to discuss the implementation of the Food Supplements Directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation on 14 September 2009.

### Judges: Sentencing

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what training judges receive on consistency in sentencing; what steps he *(a)* has taken in the last three years and *(b)* plans to take to encourage consistency in sentencing; and if he will make a statement; [306107]

(2) what guidelines his Department has issued to judges on consistency of sentencing since December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [306108]

**Maria Eagle:** The responsibility for judicial training lies with the Lord Chief Justice as head of the judiciary and is exercised through the independent Judicial Studies Board (JSB).

Sentencing is an independent function and judges and magistrates are responsible for making decisions in individual cases subject to the statutory framework laid down by Parliament. All those who pass a sentence will also consider relevant case law, Court of Appeal decisions and any guidelines issued by the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council.

Training for both judges and magistrates seeks to promote a consistent approach to decision making, and uses sentencing exercises to give judges the opportunity to discuss the issues involved.

Responsibility for issuing sentencing guidelines rests with the Sentencing Guidelines Council, not the Government. The Council was set up under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and is an independent body chaired by the Lord Chief Justice. In framing or revising sentencing guidelines the Council must have regard to the need to promote consistency in sentencing. The Sentencing Council for England and Wales, created by the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 as an independent body, will replace the Sentencing Advisory Panel and the Sentencing Guidelines Council with a significantly expanded remit.

Subject to Parliament's approval of the relevant orders provided for in the Coroners and Justice Act, it is expected that the Sentencing Council for England and Wales will be established by April 2010. The Sentencing Council will encourage greater consistency in sentencing as courts will be obliged to follow relevant guidelines published by the Council unless it would be contrary to the interests of justice to do so, and must include reference to those guidelines when explaining why a sentence given is significantly different from that guideline.

### Legal Services Commission: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what payments the Legal Services Commission has made to Positif Politics Ltd in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305422]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Legal Services Commission in Wales (as a non devolved body) has a contract with Positif Politics Ltd to track Welsh Assembly Government business. The purpose of the contract with Postif Politics is to ensure that the Legal Services Commission is kept up to date with developments in the National Assembly and Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) that might have an impact on the provision of legal aid services for Welsh citizens. The LSC jurisdiction is across England and Wales and most changes in law and process that have an impact on legal aid derive from Westminster. However, many of the issues that can have an impact on social welfare law services are devolved matters for the Assembly Government.

The current contract covers the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009 at a total cost of £4,365.

A copy of the contract will be placed in the Library.

### Police Cautions and Convictions

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people *(a)* were convicted and *(b)* received a caution for offences of (i) perverting the course of justice, (ii) attempting to pervert the course of justice and (iii) wasting police time in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years; and how many and what proportion in each such category were convicted or cautioned as a result of having been found to have made false complaints of rape or other sexual assault. [307767]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for perjury, attempting to pervert the course of public justice, and wasting police time, from 1998 to 2007 (latest available) is given in Table 1. The number of cautions issued for these offences is given in Table 2.

Statistical information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the Cautions and Court Proceedings Database for England and Wales does not identify the circumstances of the offence. Therefore it is not possible to separately identify those cautions or convictions that have arisen from complaints of rape or other sexual assault.

Cautions and court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

*Table 1: The number of persons found guilty at all courts of perjury, attempting to pervert the course of public justice, and wasting police time, England and Wales 1998 to 2007[1,2]*

| *Statute* | *Offence description* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Perjury Act 1911, s.1; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.89; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.106; Criminal Justice Act 1925, s.36; County Courts Act 1984, s.133; mental Health Act 1983, s. 126(4); Mines and Quarries (Tips) Act 1969, s.12(2) (part); Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, s.75. | Perjury and false statements (also false declarations and representations made punishable by any statute). | 175 | 114 | 135 | 92 | 81 | 108 | 145 | 126 | 91 | 91 |
| Common Law. | Attempting to pervert the course of public justice (fabrication of false evidence, causing person to be wrongly convicted, interference with witness)[3] | 1,803 | 1,780 | 1,629 | 1,798 | 1,549 | 1,391 | 1,311 | 1,271 | 1,304 | 1,172 |
| Criminal Law Act 1967, s.5(2). | Causing wasteful employment of the police etc. | 57 | 53 | 81 | 72 | 62 | 66 | 111 | 133 | 160 | 225 |
| Total | | 2,035 | 1,947 | 1,845 | 1,962 | 1,692 | 1,565 | 1,567 | 1,530 | 1,555 | 1,488 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Does not include: intimidating a juror or witness or person assisting in investigation of offence or harming or threatening to harm a witness, juror or person assisting in investigation.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

*Table 2: The number of persons cautioned[1] for perjury, attempting to pervert the course of public justice, and wasting police time, England and Wales 1998 to 2007[2]*

| *Statute* | *Offence description* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Perjury Act 1911, s.1; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.89; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.106; Criminal Justice Act 1925, s.36; County Courts Act 1984, s.133; mental Health Act1983, s. 126(4); Mines and Quarries (Tips) Act1969, s.12(2) (part); Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, s.75. | Perjury and false statements (also false declarations and representations made punishable by any statute). | 42 | 37 | 17 | 11 | 17 | 26 | 39 | 26 | 44 | 46 |

*Table 2. The number of persons cautioned[1, 2] for perjury, attempting to pervert the course of public justice, and wasting police time, England and Wales 1998 to 2007[3]*

| *Statute* | *Offence description* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Common Law | Attempting to pervert the course of public justice (fabrication of false evidence, causing person to be wrongly convicted, interference with witness)[3] | 316 | 312 | 259 | 226 | 202 | 283 | 311 | 377 | 405 | 286 |
| Criminal Law Act 1967, s.5(2). | Causing wasteful employment of the police etc. | 117 | 108 | 96 | 78 | 98 | 110 | 166 | 202 | 288 | 371 |
| Total | | 475 | 457 | 372 | 315 | 317 | 419 | 516 | 605 | 737 | 703 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence. From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1988 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These are included in the totals.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Does not include: intimidating a juror or witness or person assisting in investigation of offence or harming or threatening to harm a witness, juror or person assisting in investigation.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

## Police: Sentencing

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with police forces on sentencing policy since December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [306091]

**Maria Eagle:** The Green Paper "Engaging Communities in Criminal Justice", published in April 2009, contained questions relating to sentencing policy (e.g. reviews of community sentences, and content of those sentences). Responses on those points were received from police forces. There are also ongoing discussions with police forces of criminal justice issues, including sentencing where relevant, across the range of criminal justice forums on which the police are represented.

## Prisons: Television

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have access to satellite television broadcasts in their cells. [306660]

**Maria Eagle:** No public sector prisoners have access to satellite television in their cells as no public sector prisons have in cell satellite television. Five contracted prisons have access to a limited number of satellite television channels in cell: Altcourse, Dovegate, Lowdham Grange, Parc and Rye Hill. In these establishments, satellite television in cell is generally only available to prisoners who are on the Enhanced or Standard level of the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme. This means that numbers of prisoners with access may change on a daily basis. At 10 December 2009 this figure was approximately 4,070.

## Public Contracts Regulations 2006

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the implications of the new plea negotiations guidelines for implementation of regulation 23 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006, with regard to mandatory exclusion. [307445]

**The Solicitor-General:** I have been asked to reply.

The Attorney-General's Guidelines on Plea Discussions in cases of Serious or Complex Fraud, which provide a framework within which prosecutors and defence can discuss the issues in a case from an early stage to narrow issues or to reach agreement about acceptable pleas of guilty to criminal offences, do not affect the operation of the law.

## Reoffenders

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offences have been committed by those on home detention curfews since 1997. [306664]

**Maria Eagle:** The table gives the number of offences committed by offenders while on HDC between 2003-04 and 2007-08.

| | *Number of offenders on HDC[1]* | *Number of reoffences[2]* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 20,802 | 2,307 |
| 2004-05 | 18,587 | 1,533 |
| 2005-06 | 15,443 | 1,176 |
| 2006-07 | 12,626 | 822 |
| 2007-08 | 11,316 | 820 |

[1] Offenders starting HDC during the quarter; excludes offenders who were listed in the prison data but could not be found on the PNC.

[2] The total number offences committed whilst on HDC that resulted in a conviction or caution within nine months of the end of the quarter.

Data prior to 2003-04 are not available.

The latest figures on reoffending while on home detention curfew were released by this Department in a written ministerial statement on 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 142-44WS, and can be found at

http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090914/wmstextV90914m0001.htm

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* murders and *(b)* other crimes of violence against the person have been committed by those released from prison on early release since 1997. [306666]

**Maria Eagle:** Determinate sentenced prisoners may be released into the community earlier than the halfway point of their sentence only under either the End of Custody Licence (ECL) Scheme or the Home Detention Curfew Scheme (HDC). Indeterminate sentenced prisoners are not eligible for early release.

Data on ECL releases, recalls and alleged re-offending is published every month on the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

From 29 June 2007 to 31 October 2009, 1,098 offenders released on ECL have been notified as alleged to have committed a further offence. These offenders were alleged to have committed 1,458 offences, of which 306 were violent offences. These figures include two offenders released on ECL who were subsequently convicted of murder.

The number of violent offences committed by offenders while on HDC between 2003-04 and 2007-08 is shown in table 2 as follows.

*Number*

| *Offence Category* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 74 | 47 | 50 | 40 | 60 |

In addition to the cases shown in the table above, there were two prisoners released onto the HDC scheme and who were subsequently convicted of murder.

Data prior to 2003-04 is not available in a comparable audited format. To provide the full set of information from 1997 would require manual checking of files, which could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

The latest figures on reoffending while on HDC were released by this Department in a written ministerial statement on 14 September 2009 and can be found at:

http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090914/wmstext/90914m0001.htm

The figures relate to offenders who have committed an offence during their period on HDC resulting in a caution or conviction. The figures relate only to those offences where the caution or conviction was given within nine months of the end of the quarter in which the offender commenced the HDC scheme.

There are cases of further serious offending whereby the nature of the offence leads to court cases taking longer than nine months to conclude.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people charged with offences since 1997 had previously been released from prison on parole. [306663]

**Maria Eagle:** The data held by the Ministry of Justice does not enable us to identify people who have been charged with an offence and who had previously been released from prison on parole.

### Young Offender Institutions: Social Workers

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many social worker posts there are in young offender institutions; and how many such posts are vacant. [300252]

**Maria Eagle:** There are currently 22.5 social worker posts in young offender institutions and dedicated units for young women. 11.5 of these posts are vacant.

### Youth Offending Teams: Finance

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on youth offending teams since their inception. [301321]

**Maria Eagle:** Youth offending teams (YOTs) receive funding from a number of sources. The following table shows financial contributions made to YOTs via the Youth Justice Board (YJB). Funding from the YJB includes Ministry of Justice, Department for Children Schools and Families and Home Office Funding.

| | *Funding to youth offending team (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 138,557,446.44 |
| 2007-08 | 126,762,030.45 |
| 2006-07 | 118,481,712.61 |
| 2005-06 | 98,333,746.98 |
| 2004-05 | 85,794,467.01 |
| 2003-04 | 84,308,627.49 |
| 2002-03 | 83,332,631.38 |
| 2001-02 | 61,598,291.02 |
| 2000-01 | 28,599,649.69 |
| 1999-2000 | 27,786,283.98 |

YOTs also receive funding from other Government sources at local level (including police, probation, social services and via local authorities).

The data contained in this answer are supplied by the YJB and is taken from their annual accounts.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Central Office of Information: Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Central Office of Information has spent on hotel accommodation for its staff in each of the last five years. [305707]

**Tessa Jowell:** I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon.

*Letter from Mark Lund, dated December 2009:*

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [305707] on hotel accommodation.

The Central Office of Information (COI) spent £83,643 on hotel accommodation for the last financial year that is available, 2008/9.

Central records for the preceding years do not specifically separate hotel accommodation from the rest of travel and subsistence and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

COI have offices throughout the UK. It also organises events nationwide as well as abroad which increases the need for overnight accommodation. This is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

## Charities Act 2006

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the cost of *(a)* the time of civil servants in her Department of the introduction of the Charities Act 2006 and *(b)* (i) consultation and (ii) publication of guidance in association with the Act. [307436]

**Angela E. Smith:** Disaggregated costs associated with the introduction of the Charities Act 2006 are not held centrally, and no estimate has been made of the costs to the Cabinet Office of implementing the Act. There are currently three civil servants in the Office of the Third Sector, working on the implementation of the Act, which has included several consultations on secondary legislation, and the preparation of guidance. The Charity Commission, as independent regulator of charities in England and Wales has a significant role in implementing the Charities Act 2006 and has updated its guidance to reflect the Act.

The Act contains a statutory requirement for a review of its operation to begin within five years of Royal Assent. The review, which will include an assessment of the Act's implementation, must also be laid in Parliament.

## Charities: Fraud

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent steps her Department has taken to stop the activities of bogus charity collectors. [307612]

**Angela E. Smith:** The issue of bogus charity collectors is something this Government take very seriously. While enforcement action is a matter for the police and local authorities, we co-ordinated a Give With Care campaign through the Office of the Third Sector to increase awareness of bogus clothing collections in 2007, and we are planning a further campaign in the near future. In addition we funded the start up of the Fundraising Standards Board and work closely with them to promote responsible fundraising practice.

## Charity Commission: Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Charity Commission for England and Wales has spent on hotel accommodation for its staff in each of the last five years. [305708]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

*Letter from Andrew Hind, 9 December 2009:*

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on how much the Charity Commission for England and Wales has spent on hotel accommodation for its staff in each of the last five years (305708).

We keep figures for hotels booked through our central procurement system, which are as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 176,910 |
| 2006 | 136,998 |
| 2007 | 116,796 |
| 2008 | 102,986 |
| 2009 | 176,181 |

However, not all Commission staff use this system as it is also possible to book hotels directly. These costs are included in travel and subsistence claims and Government Procurement Card payments, which we do not routinely break down. This would have to be calculated manually and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

In the past year we have encouraged staff to make more use of the central procurement system, which accounts for the recent increase in costs shown above.

I hope this information is helpful.

## Death: Obesity

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people between *(a)* 35 and 45, *(b)* 46 and 55 and *(c)* 56 and 65 years old died of diseases related to obesity in (i) England and [illegible]) Milton Keynes in each year since 2000. [308084]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people between (a) 35 and 45, (b) 46 and 55 and (c) 56 and 65 years old died of diseases related to obesity in (i) England and (ii) Milton Keynes in each year since 2000. (308084)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where obesity was the underlying cause of death (Table 1), and where obesity was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor (Table 2), for persons aged between (a) 35 and 45 years, (b) 46 and 55 years and (c) 56 and 65 years, in (i) England and (ii) Milton Keynes unitary authority, for the years 2000 to 2008 (the latest year available).

It is not possible to identify all deaths 'related' to obesity. For example, obesity may play an important role in deaths due to heart disease or diabetes, but it is rarely recorded on the death certificate. The figures presented in Tables 1 and 2 are therefore likely to underestimate the actual number of deaths in which obesity is involved.

*Table 1: Number of deaths where obesity was the underlying cause of death[1] by age group[2], England[3] and Milton Keynes unitary authority[4], 2000-08[5]*

| | | | | | | *Deaths (Persons)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | | | *Milton Keynes* | | |
| | *(a) 35-45* | *(b) 46-55* | *(c) 56-65* | *(a) 35-45* | *(b) 46-55* | *(c) 56-65* |
| 2000 | 28 | 25 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001 | 25 | 38 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002 | 24 | 40 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003 | 33 | 47 | 54 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2004 | 31 | 40 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 29 | 51 | 58 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2006 | 36 | 53 | 63 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2007 | 30 | 60 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2008 | 48 | 70 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 278.0 (Obesity) for the year 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code E66 (Obesity) for 2001 onwards.

[2] There are 11 years within age group *(a)* and 10 years within age groups *(b)* and *(c)*, so the figures are not completely comparable.

[3] Figures for England exclude deaths of non-residents.

[4] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

*Table 2: Number of deaths where obesity was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate[1] by age group[2], England[3] and Milton Keynes unitary authority[4], 2000-08[5]*

| | | | | | | *Deaths (Persons)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | | | *Milton Keynes* | | |
| | *(a) 35-45* | *(b) 46-55* | *(c) 56-65* | *(a) 35-45* | *(b) 46-55* | *(c) 56-65* |
| 2000 | 75 | 121 | 162 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2001 | 71 | 141 | 146 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002 | 72 | 129 | 178 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003 | 96 | 162 | 207 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2004 | 102 | 154 | 241 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2005 | 101 | 155 | 276 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 2006 | 113 | 184 | 285 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 2007 | 117 | 222 | 316 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 2008 | 129 | 257 | 371 | 0 | 3 | 1 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 278.0 (Obesity) for the year 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code E66 (Obesity) for 2001 onwards. Figures are included where obesity was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor.

[2] There are 11 years within age group *(a)* and 10 years within age groups *(b)* and *(c)*, so the figures are not completely comparable.

[3] Figures for England exclude deaths of non-residents.

[4] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Death: Smoking

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people have died of smoking-related diseases in *(a)* England and *(b)* Milton Keynes in each year since 2000. [308083]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people have died of smoking-related diseases in *(a)* England and *(b)* Milton Keynes in each year since 2000. (308083)

Deaths due to smoking-related diseases cannot be directly calculated, as smoking status is not recorded on the death certificate. However, research published by the then Health Development Agency in 2004[1] suggested that, in the period 1998 to 2002, an annual average of 86,500 deaths among persons aged 35 and over were estimated to be attributable to smoking in England[1].

From 2007 onwards, the NHS Information Centre has published an annual report containing similar estimates for England. These reports state that in 2005[2], an estimated 81,900 deaths among persons aged 35 and over in England were attributable to smoking. In 2007[3] the equivalent estimated number of deaths was 82,900, and in 2008[4] it was 83,900. Comparable figures for 2003, 2004 and 2006 are not available.

Figures for the number of people dying of smoking-related diseases in Milton Keynes unitary authority are not available for any years.

[1] The report published by the Health Development Agency is available at:

http://www:nice.org.uk/aboutnice/whoweare/aboutthehda/hdapublications/smoking_epidemic_england.jsp

[2] The 2007 report published by the NHS Information Centre is available at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/smoking/statistics-on-smoking-england-2007-%5Bns%5D

[3] The 2008 report published by the NHS Information Centre is available at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/smoking08

[4] The 2009 report published by the NHS Information Centre is available at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/smoking09

## Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in the Leader of the House's Office in her Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305680]

**Angela E. Smith:** No expenditure has been incurred on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in the Leader of the House of Commons' office in the last 12 months.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in her Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305688]

**Angela E. Smith:** No expenditure on works or refurbishment to Cabinet Office Ministers' offices in Cabinet Office buildings has been made in the last 12 months.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to the Minister for the Olympics in the last 12 months. [307346]

**Tessa Jowell:** No expenditure on works or refurbishment to offices allocated to the Minister for the Olympics has been made in the last 12 months.

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside her Department's building attended by civil servants in her Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307522]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

All Cabinet Office expenditure on away days is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Managing Public Money" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity & Propriety".

The Cabinet Office does not have a specific financial policy on the attending of conferences. The budget for such expenditure is delegated to Heads of Groups/ Management Units. As with awayday spend any expenditure on conferences is also based on principles set out in "Managing Public Money" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

### Departmental Energy

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the energy *(a)* rating and *(b)* band of 10 Downing Street was in each year for which figures are available. [307226]

**Angela E. Smith:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer previously given to the hon. Member on 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 594W.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 her Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305498]

**Angela E. Smith:** Statistics published by the Ministry of Justice on Freedom of Information in central government for 2008 show that of a total of 870 non-routine requests received by the Department (based on aggregated quarterly data) 86 per cent. (748) received a substantive response within 20 days. 95 per cent. (823) of requests were dealt with 'in time', that is within 20 days by meeting the deadline or other permitted extension deadline.

The statistics can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

and copies are available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff of her Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306718]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Cabinet Office operates a brokerage service to provide support to staff who are without a permanent role as a result of organisational change or because they have reached the end of work on a project. All staff without a permanent role are allocated to project or interim work while they are seeking a permanent role.

| *Cabinet Office staff without a permanent role at:* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* 1 January 2009 | 15 |
| *(b)* 1 April 2009 | 13 |
| *(c)* 1 July 2009 | 36 |
| *(d)* 1 October 2009 | 22 |

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the official engagements of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury were on 21 November 2009. [306701]

**Tessa Jowell:** I am not responsible for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the *(a)* subject and *(b)* location of each away day was. [306401]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

All Cabinet Office expenditure on away days is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Managing Public Money" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

### Flood Control

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many meetings the Natural Hazards Team has had since its establishment. [305070]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Natural Hazards team was established within the Cabinet Office in May 2009 to develop and oversee the critical Infrastructure Resilience programme, targeted to improve the resilience of critical infrastructure and essential services to severe disruption by natural hazards.

Since being established, the team have developed the programme through meetings with stakeholders from across Government, regulators, industry and academia. The number of such meetings is not recorded.

### Government Communications Review

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether each Department has implemented the Phillis Review recommendation that it should conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of its communications; and who holds the report of each such review which has taken place. [302223]

**Tessa Jowell:** Substantial progress has been made towards implementing the findings of the Phillis Review and all the key recommendations have been taken forward. As part of the response to the recommendations made by the House of Lords Committee on Government Communication January 2009, The Permanent Secretary, Government Communication is working with departmental directors of Communication to establish mechanisms to report on the effectiveness of Government Communication.

### Government Departments: Computer Software

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made in implementing the Government Action Plan Open Source, Open Standards and Re-Use; and what *(a)* metrics and *(b)* delivery mechanisms she has established to monitor implementation of the action plan. [307322]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Open Source, Open Standards and Re-use Action Plan was published in February 2009 as Government policy—focussing on ensuring value for money for taxpayers. Cabinet Office does not gather centralised data regarding software procurement, as this is the responsibility of individual Accounting Officers.

The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) is currently developing guidance for the procurement of open source and is working with departments and local authorities that have successfully implemented open source applications, to share best practice and effective methods for procurement.

A recent survey undertaken by OGC and Buying Solutions (the national Public Buying Organisation) highlighted that progress on implementation is already being made. For example:

Over 25 per cent. of secondary schools use the Linux operating system on at least one computer.

35 per cent. of NHS organisations (over 300,000 users) are supported on a Linux infrastructure as the NHS 'Spine' uses an open source operating system, and

All staff and public PCs in Birmingham City Council's library services now have a mixture of open source and proprietary software.

### Government Departments: Telephone Services

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what responses the Contact Council received to the enquiries which it made of each [illegible]ment Department in June 2009 on departm[illegible]or using 030 numbers in place of 084 numbers for helplines; and if she will make a statement. [302367]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The Contact Council has not directly asked departments to outline their plans for using 030 numbers in place of 084 numbers for helplines. It has, however, issued to all Contact Council members (representatives of central departments, local authorities and other bodies) a clarification statement on telephone number ranges in May this year. This statement explained the characteristics of the 084, 087 and 03 number ranges so that central departments in particular might make their own informed choice about which range(s) best meets the needs of all their customer groups.

Specifically in connection with this statement, the Council asked its central department representatives to confirm whether they retain any additional revenue as a result of using 084/087 numbers and to outline which ranges (not necessarily 03) best suit the services they provide to their customers.

Most major customer facing departments have answered these questions, and the remaining departments is in process of doing so. Once the outstanding response has been received the Council will analyse all response with a view to recommending ways of increasing the uptake of the 03 range where appropriate.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* No. 10 Downing Street (i) special advisers and (ii) civil servants in each of the last five years. [305650]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of Cabinet Office. The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Ministerial Appointments

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, on the list of Ministerial Responsibilities, and with reference to the answer from the Secretary of State for Defence of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 83W, on Ministers, on what date *(a)* the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, *(c)* the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and *(d)* the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families were first appointed to the Cabinet; how the List of Ministerial Responsibilities reflects these dates of appointment; and if she will make a statement. [306647]

**Tessa Jowell:** The dates of appointments of Ministers to the Cabinet are a matter of public record, details of which are available from the Library of the House. I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer to the hon. Member of 8 December, *Official Report*, column 251w about the listing of Cabinet Ministers in the List of Ministerial Responsibilities.

### National School of Government: Conferences

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the National School of Government's buildings attended by civil servants in the National School of Government there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307456]

**Angela E. Smith:** This is a matter for the National School of Government. I have asked the principal and chief executive to assist by writing to you.

*Letter from Rod Clark, dated December 2009:*

In the Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 9 January 2007 (Official Report Col 5WS), the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Pat McFadden MP) announced that the National School of Government was now a Non Ministerial Department. Consequently, the Minister for the Cabinet Office has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about the National School of Government.

The information requested is not held centrally and is not easy to collect and can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

## National School of Government: Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the National School of Government has spent on hotel accommodation for its officials in each of the last five years. [306039]

**Angela E. Smith:** This is a matter for the National School of Government. I have asked the principal and chief executive to assist by writing to you.

*Letter from Rod Clark, dated December 2009:*

In the Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 9 January 2007 (Official Report Col 5WS), the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Pat McFadden MP) announced that the National School of Government was now a Non Ministerial Department. Consequently, the Minister for the Cabinet Office has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about the National School of Government.

The National School's finance system does not separately identify the amount of expenditure on hotel accommodation for the School's staff. We can identify the amount of subsistence that we have paid in respect of staff split between the United Kingdom and overseas. This will include hotel accommodation plus also the cost of meals and any incidental allowances paid within HMRC rules. The expenditure was incurred in the normal course of the School's business of providing learning and development and consultancy services on a cost-recovery basis to the civil service, wider public sector, voluntary and private sectors and overseas.

| | *UK* | *Overseas* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004/05 | 104,046 | 62,184 | 166,230 |
| 2005/06 | 121,172 | 54,423 | 175,595 |
| 2006/07 | 58,170 | 51,413 | 109,583 |
| 2007/08 | 71,620 | 87,565 | 159,186 |
| 2008/09 | 118,053 | 52,348 | 170,402 |
| 2009/10 part year | 47,284 | 32,406 | 79,690 |

In addition to the above amounts we have also paid hotels, conference centres and other venues for the accommodation of students on learning and development events. Inclusive in some of these payments would be the costs of staff necessarily staying with the students - these costs are not separately identified.

## National School of Government: Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what redesigns of websites operated by the National School of Government have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306197]

**Angela E. Smith:** This is a matter for the National School of Government. I have asked the principal and chief executive to assist by writing to you.

*Letter from Rod Clark, dated December 2009:*

In the Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 9 January 2007 (Official Report Col 5WS), the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Pat McFadden MP) announced that the National School of Government was now a Non Ministerial Department. Consequently, the Minister for the Cabinet Office has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about the National School of Government.

The National School of Government's internet website has been re-designed once since 27th June 2007 and was completed by March 2008. The cost was £27,683.

## Voluntary Work: Religion

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent steps her Department has taken to encourage volunteering with faith organisations. [306083]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Office of the Third Sector is committed to working towards a society where all individuals and communities are enabled to volunteer.

Through the Capacitybuilders programme the Office of the Third Sector is providing Volunteering England with £1.4 million between 2008 to 2011 to deliver improved support to volunteer involving organisations. Part of Volunteering England's work is to support volunteering within faith based organisations. Volunteering England is working with the youth volunteering charity v to fund six volunteering projects within faith based organisations. The aim of these projects is to improve the way that faith based organisations receive support in the areas of volunteer recruitment and retention.

# COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Affordable Housing

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many completed Rent to Homebuy transactions there have been to date. [305932]

**John Healey:** Provisional data from the Homes and Communities Agency show that there were 1,899 rent to homebuy completions up to end September 2009.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many completed sales there have been under the Social Homebuy scheme since April 2006; and how much had been spent on that scheme on the latest date for which figures are available. [306727]

**John Healey:** Between April 2006 and 30 September 2009, there were 328 completed social homebuy sales.

Social homebuy is a voluntary demand-led scheme. Registered social landlords who choose to offer the scheme to their tenants bid to the Homes and Communities Agency for grant to cover the discount offered to the tenant. From April 2006 to end September 2009, spend through the National Affordable Housing programme totalled £3.6 million.

No funding is provided to local authorities offering the scheme other than £132,770 given to help early pilots with development and set-up costs in 2006-07.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition his Department uses of a Rent to HomeBuy *(a)* sale and *(b)* completion. [306731]

**John Healey:** A rent to homebuy completion is recorded when the building is ready for occupation, and a sale is recorded when a rent to homebuy tenant buys a share of the property, following an initial rental period which can be up to five years.

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new affordable housing units were completed in *(a)* Leeds West, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* England in each year since 2001. [306061]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Data are not available for parliamentary constituencies. Information for Leeds, West Yorkshire and England is as follows:

*Additional affordable dwellings provided 2000-01 to 2008-09*

| | *Leeds* | *West Yorkshire* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 200 | 740 | 33,160 |
| 2001-02 | 450 | 920 | 33,020 |
| 2002-03 | 310 | 730 | 32,920 |
| 2003-04 | 180 | 600 | 38,070 |
| 2004-05 | 260 | 590 | 37,470 |
| 2005-06 | 310 | 740 | 45,900 |
| 2006-07 | 290 | 980 | 44,570 |
| 2007-08 | 380 | 1,110 | 53,480 |
| 2008-09 | 460 | 1,310 | 55,770 |

*Source:*
CLG Housing Live Tables, Table 1008

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been purchased under the *(a)* First Time Buyer's Initiative, *(b)* HomeBuy Direct, *(c)* New Build HomeBuy, *(d)* Open Market HomeBuy and *(e)* Social HomeBuy schemes in each of the last three years; and how many have been purchased under each scheme in 2009-10 to date. [307206]

**John Healey:** The number of homes purchased in the last three years is as follows:

| | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|
| First Time Buyers Initiative | 24 | 818 | 1,025 |
| HomeBuy Direct[1] | | | |
| New Build HomeBuy | 11,017 | 14,880 | 10,647 |
| Open Market HomeBuy | 2,463 | 2,749 | 6,123 |
| Social HomeBuy | 47 | 160 | 99 |

[1] HomeBuy Direct only became operational in February 2009.
*Source:*
Homes and Communities Agency.

The provisional data from April to September 2009 are as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| First Time Buyers Initiative | 363 |
| HomeBuy Direct | 997 |
| New Build HomeBuy | 2,634 |
| Open Market HomeBuy | 3,194 |
| Social HomeBuy | 20 |

*Source:*
Homes and Communities Agency.

## Affordable Housing: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to increase the number of dwellings available for low-cost home ownership in Leeds West constituency. [306062]

**John Healey:** There is substantial investment in the Leeds city area in low cost home ownership to deliver additional affordable homes, data are not available by constituency only by local authority. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has two principal products for low cost home ownership, homebuy direct which is an equity share model and new build homebuy which is shared ownership with a housing association or other provider. In addition to the National Affordable Housing programme, provision of these homes has also been accelerated through the additional funding made available through the Building Britain's Future initiative, notably Kickstart.

HCA published half year performance statistics to end September 2009, this showed 44 units of homebuy direct delivered in Leeds city area in the financial year. In addition, 20 low cost homeownership units have been delivered in Leeds this financial year through the National Affordable Housing programme. Outturn completions for 2008-09 also showed 110 units in Leeds.

Kickstart round 1 allocated over £50 million in Yorkshire and Humber subject to funding conditions. This includes substantial schemes in Leeds including elements of shared ownership or homebuy direct.

Kickstart round 2 will allocate over £30 million in Yorkshire and Humber subject to funding conditions. There are a total of 23 schemes in the region, with one in Leeds supporting the delivery of approximately 1,488 homes by March 2012.

## Affordable Housing: Leeds and West Yorkshire

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps he plans to take to increase the number of dwellings available for low-cost home ownership in the Leeds city area; [306574]

(2) what steps he plans to take to increase the number of dwellings available for low-cost home ownership in the West Yorkshire area. [306573]

**John Healey:** There is substantial investment in West Yorkshire and the Leeds City area to deliver additional affordable homes, including both rented and low cost home ownership homes. Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has two principal products for low cost home ownership, Homebuy Direct, which is an equity share model and Newbuild Homebuy which is shared ownership with a housing association or other provider. In addition to existing programmes such as the National Affordable Housing Programme, the provision of these homes has been accelerated through the additional funding made available through the Building Britain's Future initiative, notably Kickstart and the Local Authority Newbuild Programme.

Low cost home ownership is a valuable tool in securing a mix of tenures in sustainable communities, and in providing wider access to home ownership. HCA works very closely with local authorities and partners to determine the most appropriate and sustainable mix of tenures in a given location and actively encourages the provision of low cost home ownership choices.

75 units of Homebuy Direct have been completed in West Yorkshire, including 44 in Leeds local authority area. (HCA published half year performance statistics). In addition, outturn completions of low cost home ownership units delivered through the National Affordable Housing Programme 2008-09, was 313 units in West Yorkshire of which 110 were in Leeds.

Kickstart Round 1 allocated over £15 million to West Yorkshire subject to funding conditions. This includes £9 million allocated to four schemes in Leeds, and a further £6 million to one scheme in Kirklees and two in Wakefield. All but one of these schemes will include an element of Homebuy Direct or shared ownership.

Kickstart Round 2 has allocated in excess of £6 million to West Yorkshire with one scheme in Leeds and a further five schemes across West Yorkshire.

## Al-Muhajiroun

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the re-establishment of the Al-Muhajiroun organisation in the UK on community relations. [302510]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department of Communities and Local Government does not carry out assessments on the effect of the activity of extremist groups. These issues are a matter for the police both in their assessment of risk in communities and in tackling individuals that break the law.

## Audit Commission: Procurement

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the names and addresses are of each organisation that supplied goods or services to the Audit Commission in 2008-09. [306706]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 16 December 2009:*

*Parliamentary Question: what the names and addresses are of each organisation that supplied goods or services to the Audit Commission in 2008-09.*

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission was supplied with goods and services from 1,175 suppliers in 2008-09.

The names and addresses of these suppliers are attached to this letter.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard and the table will be available in the House of Commons Library.

## Christmas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305645]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department for Communities and Local Government and its agencies purchased the following number of Christmas trees over the last five years:

| | *Number of trees* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 5 | 4,602 |
| 2005 | 6 | 5,296 |
| 2006 | 6 | 5,444 |
| 2007 | 4 | 4,909 |
| 2008 | 5 | 2,034 |

The trees are provided by local suppliers from a sustainable source and where possible disposed of by conversion to wood chips for composting and mulching.

## Community Development

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 14 October 2009, on connecting communities, what practical actions will be funded under the programme. [307104]

**Mr. Malik:** Each area taking part in the Connecting Communities programme has drawn up individual plans which address specific challenges and practical actions for their area. These plans focus on giving people a bigger say in local issues, addressing specific local concerns and increasing access to local services and opportunities.

In Speke, in Liverpool there was concern about a lack of jobs and whether jobs were going to local people. Through the Connecting Communities programme local agencies are now working with young people and single parents in particular to link them up with opportunities under the Future Jobs Fund. Further practical actions taken forward by other areas have included forming a neighbourhood's first ever community group (Stanney, Ellesmere Port), developing neighbourhood agreements (Felling, Gateshead), setting up a Youth Action Group (New Parks, Leicester).

## Council Housing

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he expects the new duty to tackle socio-economic disadvantage proposed in the Equality Bill to require local authorities to *(a)* adjust their housing waiting list policies and *(b)* complete an equality impact assessment of changes they propose to make to their housing waiting list policies; and whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on the powers of local authorities in respect of the priority given to local residents in such policies. [306752]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The provision in the Equality Bill would require local authorities to give due regard to the desirability of tackling socio-economic inequalities when making strategic decisions about how to exercise their functions. We would expect this duty to apply to authorities when framing their allocation scheme and the new statutory guidance on social housing allocation issued to local authorities on 4 December made this clear. However, this will not be the only factor authorities will need to take into consideration when developing their allocation policies; local authorities will need to balance several strategic objectives, such as promoting the local economy, and promoting community cohesion.

We would expect and strongly recommend that local authorities carry out an equality impact assessment of any significant change to their allocation policies to ensure compliance with the authority's legal equality duties.

We recognise that local authorities may wish to adopt allocation policies which give greater priority to people with a local connection to the district. We do not believe that the duty to tackle socio-economic inequalities should affect a local authority's power to do so. Indeed authorities may decide that local disadvantage should be addressed by giving more priority to local people with housing needs.

### Council Housing: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were registered for rehousing with Leeds City Council in each year since 2000. [illegible]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The following figures are taken from the earliest available data (2001) and represent the total number of applications registered as at 31 March each year.

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 25,318 |
| 2002 | 26,641 |
| 2003 | 31,305 |
| 2004 | 30,950 |
| 2005 | 31,606 |
| 2006 | 30,847 |
| 2007 | 30,766 |
| 2008 | 29,913 |
| 2009 | 30,200 |

### Council Housing: Property Transfer

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects the Minister of State for Housing to make a decision on whether First Choice Homes Oldham will be allowed to ballot its tenants on a stock transfer to a Registered Social Landlord. [illegible]

**John Healey:** Today, I have laid a written ministerial statement in which I confirmed the position on Oldham council's housing transfer proposals.

### Council Tax Benefits

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what circumstances homeowners with a mortgage are eligible for council tax benefit. [illegible]

**Helen Goodman:** I have been asked to reply.

Council tax benefit is a non-contributory, income-related, social security benefit that provides help to people with low incomes to pay their council tax. It is administered by local authorities. People may qualify if they are liable for council tax in respect of the home they are resident in and are aged over 18. Entitlement is based on financial circumstances and may be paid to people in or out of work. Homeowners, as well as people who rent, may be eligible on this basis.

### Councillors

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much public funding has been provided to political parties and their associated political groups under the 'Be a Councillor' programme. [306395]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The 'Be a Councillor' programme is run by the Leadership Centre for Local Government, a registered charity. Communities and Local Government has contributed £50,000 to the programme in 2009-10. Under the programme, the Leadership Centre gives advice and support to all of the main political parties in England plus smaller parties and independents as defined by the LGA Independent Group, to assist them in attracting a wider and more diverse range of people to become local councillors.

### Councillors: Fraud

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 17W, on councillors, how many cases of housing benefit fraud by councillors have been identified as a result of the National Fraud Initiative of the Audit Commission. [306831]

**John Healey:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 16 December 2009:*

Parliamentary Question: with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 15 June 2009, Official Report, column 17W, on councillors, how many cases of housing benefit fraud by councillors have been identified as a result of the National Fraud Initiative of the Audit Commission.

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply. I am afraid that we are unable to answer your question as the data submitted does not automatically allow the Audit Commission to distinguish between employees and councillors. This is because the payroll details do not contain the status of the individual.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305689]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department for Communities and Local Government has spent £2711.95 on work to ministerial offices since January 2009.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306077]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department for Communities and Local Government purchased 2 x 63" plasma screen televisions in December 2006 at a cost of £16,167.34.

Information prior to 2005 is not available.

### Departmental Information and Communications Technology

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what pay band his Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307570]

**Barbara Follett:** The Chief Information Officer (CIO) is employed on a permanent contract in the Senior Civil Service Pay Band 2 (£82,900 to £162,500). The CIO and his team have a budget of £30.442 million (administration and capital expenditure) for 2009-2010. This covers central expenditure for CLG and Government Offices.

### Departmental Pay

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years for which information is available; what proportion of the total work force they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [300285]

**Barbara Follett:** The following table shows the number of 'end of year' performance payments that have been paid to staff in CLG over the last five years.

The Department also operates a scheme for all staff below the senior civil service under which individuals or teams may receive a small non-consolidated award in recognition of an outstanding contribution over a limited period. The maximum payment made under these arrangements is £600. Records are only available for the three years to 31 March 2006 and are shown in the following table.

*Table showing details of end-year non-consolidated payments made to staff in Communities and Local Government in each of the last five years*

| | *No. of senior civil servants (SCS) who received non-consolidated performance payments* | *No. of staff below SCS who received non-consolidated performance payments* | *Amount of non-consolidated performance payments made to SCS (£)* | *Amount of non-consolidated performance payments made to staff below SCS (£)* | *Total cost (£)* | *Total work-force (Percentage)* | *Largest bonus paid (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 102 | [1] | 751,150 | [1] | — | — | 12,500 |
| 2008-09 | 102 | 570 | 856,392 | 428,157 | 1,284,549 | 31 | 20,500 |
| 2007-08 | 104 | 391 | 686,000 | 332,350 | 1,018,350 | 22 | 16,270 |
| 2006-07 | 83 | 478 | 570,000 | 268,250 | 838,250 | 24 | 12,500 |
| 2005-06 | 86 | 503 | 426,000 | 170,000 | 596,000 | 25 | 9,500 |

[1] Information not yet available.

*Table showing in-year non-consolidated awards made to CLG staff below the senior civil service*

| | *2005-06* | *2004-05* | *2003-04* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of in-year performance non-consolidated performance awards | 301 | 400 | 356 |
| Total costs (£) | 105,000 | 116,000 | 116,000 |
| Largest payment paid (£) | 600 | 600 | 600 |

### Departmental Procurement

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to Lord Bates of 12 October 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 5WA, on the Department for Communities and Local Government: purchase order data, how much was spent on each listed supplier in 2008-09. [307086]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of its strategic objectives his Department did not meet in 2008-09. [307071]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department agreed three year strategic objectives covering 2008-09 to 2010-11 in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. We have not reported final assessments for any of these but our 2009 Autumn Performance Report reports 'strong progress' for DSO 2 (housing) and DSO 6 (fire); 'some progress' for DSO 1 (local government), DSO 4 (cohesive, active and empowered communities) and DSO 5 (planning); and 'not yet assessed' for DSO 3 (economic performance and regeneration). The report was laid before the House on 15 December 2009 as Command Paper (Cm 7770) and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/howwework/corporatereports/reportsaccounts/performancereports

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; [illegible] what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305901]

**Barbara Follett:** Record of overseas training courses for Communities and Local Government are not centrally held in the Department. However available data obtained within the Department gives the following breakdown for the calendar year 2008-09; figures given do not include travel and subsistence costs

| *List of overseas training courses* | *Number of civil servants* | *Cost to the public purse* | *Date* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Two days—Financial statements and audit in the public sector, Warsaw | 2 | 1180 Euro | December 2008 |
| Five days course in Hungary for living library organisers | 1 | 50 Euros—(cost covered by the EU with only 50 Euro contribution by CLG) | February 2009 |
| One day—Royal Statistical Association conference in Belgium | 2 | Free—(cost waived (as the members of staff were also speakers at the conference) | April 2009 |
| Four days—Financial Management of ERDF programmes, Barcelona | 1 | £1,229 | April 2009 |
| Two days—Training the trainers course, Brussels | 1 | £128.02 | June 2009 |
| Three days—Evaluation of ERDF programmes, Berlin | 1 | £1,240.37 | June 2009 |
| Two days World 1 conference on Spatial Econometrics in Barcelona | 1 | 375 Euros | July 2009 |
| Two days Eurostat-IAOS-IFC conference on Residential Property Price indices (RPPI) in Basel, Switzerland | 1 | Free | November 2009 |

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of Parliamentary Questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307535]

**Barbara Follett:** In the 2008-09 Session Communities and Local Government received 790 parliamentary questions for answer on a named day, of which 642 (81 per cent.) received a substantive answer on the day in question.

### Disadvantaged People: Employment

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's publication of statistics for DSO 3.7: Overall Employment rate (working age population) at neighbourhood level (in deprived areas), England, what the employment rate was in each individual deprived neighbourhood in *(a)* April 2007 to March 2008, *(b)* July 2007 to June 2008, *(c)* October 2007 to September 2008, *(d)* January 2007 to December 2008 and *(e)* April 2008 to March 2009. [306555]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The data source used to calculate DSO 3.7 'Overall Employment rate (working age population) at neighbourhood level (in deprived areas)' is the Office of National Statistics' (ONS) sample survey the Annual Population Survey (APS). Due to the small sample size of the Annual Population Survey at neighbourhood level (lower super output area) we are unable to provide estimates for individual deprived neighbourhoods.

### Emergency Calls

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many calls were made to the 999 emergency number in each of the last three years; how many calls were dropped by the system in each of the last three years; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the 999 emergency system; and if he will make a statement. [305922]

**Mr. Malik:** The 999 and 112 emergency number system provides a very effective means for the public to contact the police, fire, ambulance and coastguard services rapidly in an emergency.

The figures for emergency calls received by the Call Handling Agents and connected (after filtering for false/accidental calls) to the emergency services in the three years since 1 July 2006 are:

| | *1 July 2006—to June 2007* | *1 July 2007—to June 2008* | *1 July 2008—to June 2009* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Calls | 35,119,122 | 33,389,065 | 31,267,064 |
| Connected | 20,567,416 | 19,916,230 | 19,597,363 |

### English Regions Network: Finance

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 968W, on the English Regions Network, for what purposes his Department will provide funding to the English Regions Network. [306550]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** CLG provides funding to the English Regional Network to coordinate the collective activities and views of Local Authority Leaders' Boards and Regional Assemblies and in particular to coordinate actives supporting Regional Spatial Strategies.

### Fire Services

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when each regional fire control room will be fully functional; when rent became or will become payable on each regional control room; and what estimate he has made of the rental cost of each regional fire control room over the full period of its lease. [305841]

**Mr. Malik:** Under current planning assumptions the first regional fire control rooms are expected to become operational in spring 2011 and the last Fire and Rescue Service will switch over by the end of 2012.

| *Regional control centre* | *Go live date* |
|---|---|
| South West | May 2011 |
| East Midlands | May 2011 |
| North East | May 2011 |
| West Midlands | May 2011 |
| North West | January 2012 |
| South East | March 2012 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | July 2012 |
| East of England | September 2011 |
| London | September 2011 |

*Regional rental costs estimates over the full period of the lease*

| | *Rent commencement date* | *Estimated rent over full period of lease (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 13 April 2008 | 28,237,658.85 |
| East Midlands | 20 January 2008 | 38,630,926.87 |
| South West | 15 February 2008 | 29,178,474.41 |
| West Midlands | 14 October 2008 | 43,592,098.37 |
| South East | 14 November 2008 | 46,337,023.37 |
| North West | 1 January 2009 | 38,292,659.67 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 16 April 2009 | 27,177,839.88 |
| East of England | 22 April 2009 | 43,995,258.72 |
| London | 26 November 2010 | 77,656,287.37 |

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date each regional fire control room lease expires; and what steps he has taken to ensure the continuation of a national network on expiry of the leases. [305844]

**Mr. Malik:** The date on which each Regional Control Centre lease is due to expire are:

| *Region* | *End date of Lease* |
|---|---|
| North East | 28 June 2027 |
| East Midlands | 28 June 2032 |
| South West | 14 August 2027 |
| West Midlands | 19 December 2032 |
| South East | 13 May 2033 |
| North West | 30 June 2033 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 30 June 2028 |
| East of England | 30 September 2033 |
| London | 25 February 2034 |

Decisions would need to be taken well in advance of lease expiry under the Landlord and Tennant Act.

## Fire Services: Finance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much had been spent under each budget heading on the FiReControl Project on the latest date for which figures are available. [305842]

**Mr. Malik:** The current estimated project cost is £420 million of which approximately £190 million has been spent to date.

## Fire Services: Risk Assessment

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many project risks there are on the FiReControl Risk Register; how many are currently rated high or above; and what the nature is of those risks currently rated high or above. [305845]

**Mr. Malik:** As we published in the FiReControl Business Case, there are a 176 risks on the project risk register of which sixteen are rated 'high' or 'very high'.

These risks fall into three main categories:

Timely completion of FiReControl and Firelink project activities (critical dependencies)

Timely decision making within local authorities and local authority controlled company's (governance and management capacity)

The pace of change within the service (strategic change/impact).

## Fire Services: Safety

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose is of Integrated Risk Management Plans (IRMPs); what role his Department plays in monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of IRMPs; and if he will make a statement. [305418]

**Mr. Malik:** Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) underpins the reforms to the Fire and Rescue Service that flowed from the White Paper 'Our Fire and Rescue Service' published in June 2003. Since then, fire and rescue authorities have shifted their focus from intervention to put a greater emphasis on fire prevention. The aim is to improve community safety, reduce the commercial, economic and social impact of fires and other emergency incidents, and make a more productive use of fire and rescue service resources to meet today's risks. That approach means that each authority now determines its policies and standards for prevention, protection and intervention in the light of the risks identified, which enables it to target those areas or sections of the community that are at particularly high risk. The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008-11 requires IRMPs to be regularly reviewed and revised and to reflect up to date risk information and evaluation of service delivery outcomes.

The Government are committed to enabling local authorities and local communities to make appropriate decisions at the local level. It is therefore not the role of Ministers to intervene in, or even comment upon, the operational proposals of an individual fire and rescue authority's IRMP; that is for elected members of the authority concerned to determine following full consultation with the local community The fire authority is best placed to act on the professional advice of principal officers and to balance the competing local demands on available resources for the benefits of the communities they serve.

A comprehensive review of the adequacy and impact on a nationwide basis of IRMP policy and implementation has been carried out on the Department's behalf by Mott Macdonald, and a report will be published. The report will be considered in discussion with stakeholders.

The Audit Commission takes account of individual fire and rescue authorities' IRMPs in drawing up annual assessments as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

### Fire Services: Vehicles

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the technology with which enhanced command support vehicles supplied by his Department to fire and rescue authorities are equipped; what recent work has been undertaken on the vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [307182]

**Mr. Malik:** The enhanced command support (ECS) vehicles provide a multi-technology communication platform to support the co-ordination of large, complex deployments of fire and rescue service (FRS) resources. Capabilities include connectivity with other FRSs, emergency service resources and control rooms through radio, mobile phones and land lines. This capability is available for operational use if needed and has already been used to good effect, most recently during last month's floods in Cumbria.

Minor technical issues have been encountered with the satellite communications capability which provides a basic level of communications in the event of an unlikely, but serious and protracted, disruption of other communications systems. We are reasonably confident that these can be resolved and hope to be in a position to deploy the full capability to the FRS by March 2010.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many enhanced command support vehicles have been supplied by his Department to fire and rescue authorities in the last 12 months; what the total purchase cost of those vehicles was; at how many incidents they have been used; and where each is currently located. [307193]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department has procured nine enhanced control vehicles for use by the fire and rescue service, as part of its new dimension project to provide enhanced response capability to the fire and rescue service. The total purchase cost of these vehicles was £1,459,500. Although the vehicles are not yet fully operational or permanently located with individual FRSs, they have been used to good effect in three incidents and exercises, most recently during last month's floods in Cumbria.

### Fires: Safety

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which recommendations made by the Business and Community Safety Forum in their ministerial submission to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Communities and Local Government on 2 April 2009 on dangers of fires in timber-framed construction were *(a)* implemented and *(b)* rejected prior to the Peckham fire in November 2009. [306904]

**Mr. Malik:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 302-03W. A copy of the letter of 28 May by my right hon. Friend the Member for Tooting (Mr. Khan) has been placed in the Library.

### Floods

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to add flooding to the list of hazards enforceable under the Housing Act 2004. [307361]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** There are no plans to revise the 29 categories of hazard contained in the housing health and safety rating system. The underlying principle of the housing health and safety rating system is that any residential premises should provide a safe and healthy environment for any potential occupier or visitor. It is primarily concerned with those matters which can properly be considered the responsibility of the owner (or landlord).

### Government Office for the East of England: Training

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of the Government Office for the East of England staff away day in Chilford Hall in November 2009; how many staff attended that away day; and for what reason that location was chosen for that away day. [306730]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government Office for the East of England (GO-East) held an event at Chilford Hall in November 2009. Chilford Hall conference centre was selected as it offered good value for money. The cost for the event was £7562.45 (including VAT). Approximately 180 people attended; including 150 GO-East staff, non-executive directors and speakers and regional partners invited to participate.

### Home Information Packs: Finance

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has budgeted for supporting the home information pack programme between 2008 to 2011; and how much of that funding will go to local authorities. [306412]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 723W.

### Homelessness

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what percentage of households in *(a)* each region and *(b)* England classified as homeless left the homeless list in each of the last two years; [303453]

(2) how many households in each region in England left the homeless list in each of the last three years. [303454]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty to secure that suitable accommodation are available ("homeless acceptances"). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation (TA) until a settled home becomes available.

The data include the number of homeless acceptances not immediately provided with settled accommodation, for whom a main homelessness duty was ended during the quarter. A duty can be ended in a number of circumstances, for example, where an offer of settled accommodation is accepted or refused. National figures for the number of homeless acceptances not immediately provided with settled accommodation for whom a main homelessness duty was ended can be found in Table 8 of the latest Statistical Release, accessible from this link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq22009

National and regional figures for the number of households in temporary accommodation or remaining in their existing home, on 31 March 2007 and 31 March 2008, who were homeless acceptances and not immediately provided with settled accommodation are shown in Table 1:

*Table 1*

| | *31 March 2007* | *31 March 2008* |
|---|---|---|
| *England* | 74,620 | 61,850 |
| East of England | 3,750 | 3,040 |
| East Midlands | 1,530 | 930 |
| London | 51,680 | 45,340 |
| North East | 810 | 590 |
| North West | 2,950 | 1,580 |
| South East | 5,800 | 3,980 |
| South West | 3,850 | 2,680 |
| West Midlands | 1,800 | 1,580 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 2,460 | 2,120 |

National and regional figures for the number of homeless acceptances not immediately provided with settled accommodation, for whom a main homelessness duty was ended in each of the last three years is shown in Table 2:

*Table 2*

| | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| *England* | 71,520 | 65,290 | 57,900 |
| East of England | 7,000 | 5,740 | 5,270 |
| East Midlands | 5,480 | 5,110 | 3,340 |
| London | 16,120 | 15,140 | 16,120 |
| North East | 5,020 | 3,450 | 2,870 |
| North West | 9,510 | 8,310 | 5,900 |
| South East | 8,370 | 7,630 | 5,670 |
| South West | 6,290 | 5,690 | 4,940 |
| West Midlands | 7,800 | 8,590 | 8,240 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 5,930 | 5,620 | 5,550 |

[1] Provisional data for 2008-09

Figures in Table 2 above exclude households who were immediately provided with settled accommodation.

### Homelessness: Children in Care

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an estimate of the number of homeless people who were formerly children in care in each of the last 10 years. [307491]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website:

http://wwwcommunities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

The data include the number of applicants accepted by local authorities aged 18 to 20 and previously in care and the number of applicants aged 21 or over and vulnerable as a result of time spent in care. The total number of acceptances in these two categories since 2003-04 is given in the table below.

| *Year*[1] | *Number of homeless households in priority need accepted by local authorities who were formerly children in care* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 1,560 |
| 2004-05 | 1,500 |
| 2005-06 | 1,270 |
| 2006-07 | 980 |
| 2007-08 | 820 |
| 2008-09 | 770 |

[1] The table does not give figures for 2002-03 as data are only available from July 2002: to March 2003, thus we do not have a figure for the entire 2002-03 financial year.

### Homelessness: Young People

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the level of financial assistance provided by each London borough to young people seeking permanent accommodation in each year since 2005. [307014]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department provides a homelessness grant to local authorities and the voluntary sector to help them prevent and tackle homelessness in their areas. This grant helps assist people of all ages and a proportion of this money will be spent on young people based on a local authority's need. We cannot disaggregate actual spend on young people, but in England in the last quarter, 39 per cent. of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty were aged 16 to 24 years.

£

| *Local authority* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *London* | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Barnet | 160,000 | 160,000 | 160,000 |
| Bexley | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Brent | 805,000 | 805,000 | 805,000 |
| Bromley | 135,000 | 135,000 | 135,000 |
| Camden | 1,600,000 | 1,600,000 | 1,600,000 |
| City of London | 295,000 | 295,000 | 295,000 |
| Croydon Council | 550,000 | 550,000 | 550,000 |
| Ealing | 640,000 | 640,000 | 640,000 |
| Enfield | 250,000 | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| Greenwich | 180,000 | 180,000 | 180,000 |
| Hackney | 590,000 | 590,000 | 590,000 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1,232,000 | 1,232,000 | 1,232,000 |
| Haringey | 250,000 | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| Harrow | 200,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Havering | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Hillingdon | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Hounslow | 240,000 | 240,000 | 240,000 |
| Islington | 380,000 | 380,000 | 380,000 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1,168,000 | 1,168,000 | 1,168,000 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 120,000 | 120,000 | 120,000 |
| Lambeth | 2,050,000 | 2,050,000 | 2,050,000 |
| Lewisham | 190,000 | 190,000 | 190,000 |
| Merton | 120,000 | 120,000 | 120,000 |
| Newham | 300,000 | 300,000 | 300,000 |
| Redbridge | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Richmond | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 |
| Southwark | 1,150,000 | 1,150,000 | 1,150,000 |
| Sutton | 200,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Tower Hamlets | 880,000 | 880,000 | 880,000 |
| Waltham Forest | 280,000 | 280,000 | 280,000 |
| Wandsworth | 330,000 | 330,000 | 330,000 |
| Westminster | 6,600,000 | 6,600,000 | 6,600,000 |
| Total London | 21,795,000 | 21,795,000 | 21,795,000 |

The Supporting People programme provides revenue funds for local authorities to commission housing-related support services for vulnerable people in their area, to enable them to develop independent living skills.

It is a locally managed and delivered programme. Local authorities are responsible for making the strategic decisions regarding the programme including deciding what services to commission to meet local needs and priorities.

*Supporting People for the three young person primary client groups in London boroughs*

£

| | *2005-06* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Administering authority name* | *Young people at risk* | *Young people leaving care* | *Teenage parents* | *Total* |
| *London* | 25,196,536 | 5,220,292 | 3,545,406 | 33,962,234 |
| Camden | 2,074,830 | 69,416 | 16,541 | 2,160,787 |
| City of London | 455,508 | 0 | 0 | 455,508 |
| Hackney | 1,282,026 | 67,382 | 226,323 | 1,575,732 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 833,373 | 180,737 | 45,755 | 1,059,865 |
| Haringey | 770,357 | 272,716 | 69,889 | 1,112,963 |
| Islington | 1,183,604 | 69,022 | 105,142 | 1,357,768 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1,059,929 | 289,916 | 31,821 | 1,381,666 |
| Lambeth | 1,173,123 | 31,401 | 501,915 | 1,706,439 |
| Lewisham | 830,625 | 394,059 | 338,946 | 1,563,630 |
| Newham | 1,306,717 | 428 | 172,526 | 1,479,671 |
| Southwark | 1,948,254 | 142,641 | 187,219 | 2,278,113 |
| Tower Hamlets | 867,679 | 392,308 | 81,032 | 1,341,019 |
| Wandsworth | 641,010 | 527,616 | 220,337 | 1,388,963 |
| Westminster | 2,331,643 | 524,346 | 38,310 | 2,894,300 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 0 | 0 | 61,412 | 61,412 |
| Barnet | 720,362 | 0 | 91,086 | 811,449 |
| Bexley | 30,437 | 37,951 | 12,813 | 81,200 |
| Brent | 440,183 | 106,958 | 180,349 | 727,491 |
| Bromley | 234,362 | 265,751 | 62,116 | 562,230 |
| Croydon | 1,210,053 | 263,361 | 118,850 | 1,592,263 |
| Ealing | 978,057 | 542,101 | 57,657 | 1,577,814 |
| Enfield | 927,004 | 24,000 | 308,361 | 1,259,365 |
| Greenwich | 1,267,926 | 218,416 | 187,166 | 1,673,508 |
| Harrow | 116,397 | 196,228 | 43,978 | 356,602 |
| Havering | 0 | 20,083 | 52,011 | 72,094 |
| Hillingdon | 485,476 | 196,167 | 48,418 | 730,061 |
| Hounslow | 442,722 | 107,901 | 0 | 550,623 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 255,415 | 0 | 64,291 | 319,706 |
| Merton | 189,940 | 13,772 | 38,325 | 242,037 |
| Redbridge | 507,181 | 36,970 | 0 | 544,150 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 129,300 | 48,829 | 34,203 | 212,332 |
| Sutton | 269,713 | 159,231 | 146,145 | 575,089 |
| Waltham Forest | 233,331 | 20,586 | 2,468 | 256,385 |

£

| | *2006-07* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Administering authority name* | *Teenage parents* | *Young people at risk* | *Young people leaving care* | *Total* |
| *London* | 3,616,929 | 26,184,294 | 4,633,327 | 34,434,550 |
| Camden | 59,128 | 2,356,534 | 71,066 | 2,486,728 |
| City of London | 0 | 455,508 | 0 | 455,508 |
| Hackney | 255,841 | 1,456,133 | 112,222 | 1,824,197 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 46,544 | 824,980 | 181,855 | 1,053,380 |
| Haringey | 78,900 | 772,657 | 274,223 | 1,125,780 |
| Islington | 105,183 | 1,116,171 | 395 | 1,221,748 |

£

| | | 2006-07 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Administering authority name* | *Teenage parents* | *Young people at risk* | *Young people leaving care* | *Total* |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 35,745 | 900,537 | 296,109 | 1,232,391 |
| Lambeth | 479,649 | 1,322,288 | 0 | 1,801,937 |
| Lewisham | 358,797 | 847,237 | 217,931 | 1,423,965 |
| Newham | 109,008 | 1,379,615 | 22,242 | 1,510,865 |
| Southwark | 228,115 | 1,970,227 | 133,159 | 2,331,501 |
| Tower Hamlets | 81,032 | 929,627 | 385,149 | 1,395,809 |
| Wandsworth | 220,337 | 626,395 | 602,000 | 1,448,733 |
| Westminster | 34,915 | 2,467,813 | 27,994 | 2,530,723 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 31,687 | 0 | 0 | 31,687 |
| Barnet | 85,477 | 695,627 | 42,766 | 823,870 |
| Bexley | 17,809 | 62,000 | 0 | 79,809 |
| Brent | 182,589 | 614,563 | 106,367 | 903,520 |
| Bromley | 57,344 | 341,831 | 406,464 | 805,639 |
| Croydon | 153,873 | 1,238,338 | 313,041 | 1,705,252 |
| Ealing | 84,306 | 1,013,621 | 555,707 | 1,653,633 |
| Enfield | 323,376 | 755,852 | 61,249 | 1,140,477 |
| Greenwich | 191,792 | 1,299,258 | 223,814 | 1,714,863 |
| Harrow | 21,553 | 93,808 | 141,368 | 256,729 |
| Havering | 0 | 48,048 | 21,970 | 70,018 |
| Hillingdon | 112,625 | 612,316 | 74,208 | 799,149 |
| Hounslow | 0 | 404,060 | 104,336 | 508,396 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 65,898 | 240,303 | 0 | 306,201 |
| Merton | 39,189 | 194,519 | 14,083 | 247,791 |
| Redbridge | 0 | 541,773 | 33,515 | 575,288 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 35,044 | 132,480 | 49,890 | 217,414 |
| Sutton | 118,642 | 234,119 | 160,205 | 512,965 |
| Waltham Forest | 2,530 | 236,055 | 0 | 238,585 |

£

| | | 2007-08 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Administering authority name* | *Teenage parents* | *Young people at risk* | *Young people leaving care* | *Total* |
| *London* | 3,761,528 | 28,031,119 | 4,252,827 | 36,045,474 |
| Camden | 106,233 | 3,088,690 | 311,531 | 3,506,454 |
| City of London | 0 | 487,674 | 0 | 487,674 |
| Hackney | 215,255 | 1,660,088 | 38,455 | 1,913,798 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 47,722 | 998,626 | 181,231 | 1,227,579 |
| Haringey | 70,661 | 651,797 | 275,730 | 998,188 |
| Islington | 109,345 | 1,234,157 | 0 | 1,343,503 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 35,298 | 704,723 | 296,109 | 1,036,130 |
| Lambeth | 450,564 | 1,438,498 | 0 | 1,889,062 |
| Lewisham | 388,631 | 1,248,011 | 120,416 | 1,757,059 |
| Newham | 176,603 | 1,318,994 | 22,267 | 1,517,864 |
| Southwark | 254,198 | 2,109,809 | 120,498 | 2,484,505 |
| Tower Hamlets | 65,775 | 1,003,746 | 249,015 | 1,318,535 |
| Wandsworth | 252,843 | 656,664 | 585,057 | 1,494,564 |
| Westminster | 34,915 | 2,467,813 | 0 | 2,502,728 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 43,753 | 0 | 0 | 43,753 |
| Barnet | 85,469 | 677,377 | 86,559 | 849,406 |
| Bexley | 33,456 | 11,209 | 0 | 44,665 |
| Brent | 186,766 | 655,067 | 106,367 | 948,200 |
| Bromley | 71,629 | 302,776 | 345,362 | 719,767 |
| Croydon | 161,696 | 1,321,389 | 253,296 | 1,736,381 |
| Ealing | 101,675 | 982,282 | 614,200 | 1,698,157 |
| Enfield | 328,840 | 661,901 | 48,000 | 1,038,741 |
| Greenwich | 142,701 | 1,571,210 | 112,892 | 1,826,803 |
| Harrow | 44,858 | 79,273 | 199,830 | 323,960 |
| Havering | 0 | 48,048 | 21,970 | 70,018 |
| Hillingdon | 120,099 | 555,283 | 18,900 | 694,282 |
| Hounslow | 0 | 416,208 | 66,675 | 482,882 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 65,898 | 240,303 | 0 | 306,201 |
| Merton | 40,051 | 198,798 | 19,930 | 258,780 |
| Redbridge | 0 | 541,773 | 13,888 | 555,661 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 35,145 | 78,966 | 41,584 | 155,695 |
| Sutton | 88,850 | 357,223 | 103,066 | 549,139 |
| Waltham Forest | 2,600 | 262,741 | 0 | 265,341 |

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on their role in assisting young people to secure permanent accommodation. [307020]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Government have issued guidance focussed on helping local authorities and the third sector assist young people in securing settled accommodation.

The Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities (July 2006)—provides a summary of the homelessness legislation and the duties, powers and obligations on housing authorities and others towards people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. In addition to this we have published:

Joint working between Housing and Children's Services: Preventing homelessness and tackling its effects on children and young people (May 2008)

Making a difference: Supported lodgings as a housing option for young people (October 2008)

An accommodation self assessment toolkit for the Socially Excluded Adults Public Service Agreement (November 2009)

Homelessness prevention and meeting housing need for (ex)offenders: A guide to practice (November 2009)

Preventing Homelessness: A Strategy Health Check (September 2006)

Homelessness Prevention—a guide to good practice (June 2006)

Local authorities are legally required to prepare a pathway plan setting out the support that will be provided to care leavers so that they can make a positive transition from their care placement to more independent accommodation. This plan will include details of any services that the individual young person might need so that they are able to successfully manage a future tenancy.

Regulations and Guidance setting out the responsibilities of local authorities to support care leavers so that they have the best chance to succeed in their accommodation was issued in 2001, at the time of the introduction of the provisions of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

As well as producing and publishing this guidance we make available other local authority prevention tools and good practice information aimed specifically at assisting young people on our National Youth Homelessness website.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms exist for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* local authorities to assist young people in securing permanent accommodation. [307047]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** CLG employ a team of homelessness advisors, seconded from local authorities, to advise and support local authorities with their homelessness strategies. In particular, identifying and promoting good practice and opportunities to improve efficiency in tackling and preventing homelessness effectively.

The Supporting People programme also funds housing-related support to vulnerable people, including young people, to help them to live more independently. For example, Supporting People funded services might support a vulnerable young person or teenage parent to develop life skills which enable them to maintain a tenancy, such as understanding a tenancy agreement, or budgeting; or they might provide support to access training, education or employment which can help young people to develop a more stable home life. In 2007-08, over £136 million was spent on housing-related support services for vulnerable young people, and over £23 million was spent on services for teenage parents.

The homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) provides a safety net for vulnerable young people who become homeless through no fault of their own. Under the legislation, local housing authorities must secure suitable accommodation for applicants who are eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and fall within a priority need group. The priority need groups include young people aged 16 or 17, young people aged between 18 and 20 who were previously in care, and young people aged 21 or over who are vulnerable as a result of having spent time in care. The duty continues until an offer of a settled home can be made.

Local authorities are responsible for allocating settled social (either within their own stock or by nomination to housing associations in their district) to those on the waiting list, including young people, who have appropriate priority under the authority's allocation scheme.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies provide to young people leaving foyer schemes to assist them in securing permanent accommodation. [307054]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Foyer schemes and other forms of supported accommodation are designed to help young people gain the skills they will require to live independently and to secure their own settled accommodation.

The Supporting People programme provides revenue funds for local authorities to commission housing related support services for vulnerable people in their area, to enable them to develop these essential independent living skills. Data relaying to the supply of and spend on supporting people housing related support services is collected retrospectively. The following table shows the amount spent on three young people client groups by service type and accommodation type for 2007-08.

*2007-08 Supporting people spend on three young person client groups, by service type and accommodation type*

£

| | | Primary Client Group | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Service type* | *Accommodation type (where applicable)* | *Teenage parents* | *Young people at risk* | *Young people leaving care* | *Grand total* |
| Accommodation based services | Accommodation Based Service | 508,932 | 2,313,959 | 79,255 | 2,902,145 |
| | Adult Placement—Registered | — | 186,558 | — | 186,558 |
| | Foyer for Young People | 50,006 | 23,411,997 | 32,374 | 23,494,377 |
| | Homeless Hostel, B & B or other temporary accommodation | 504,906 | 12,121,139 | 55,476 | 12,681,522 |
| | Resident Adult Carer | — | 373 | 55,648 | 56,021 |
| | Supported Housing (shared or self contained) | 5,965,744 | 61,677,456 | 5,785,884 | 73,429,084 |
| | Supported Lodgings | 152,518 | 3,447,892 | 1,895,530 | 5,495,940 |
| | Teenage Parent Accommodation | 9,274,670 | 111,982 | — | 9,386,652 |
| | Women's Refuge | — | 72,769 | — | 72,769 |
| | (blank) | 84,870 | 590,758 | 489,946 | 1,165,574 |
| Accommodation Based Service total | | 16,541,646 | 103,934,884 | 8,394,113 | 128,870,643 |
| Floating Support Services | | 6,504,888 | 19,495,205 | 2,932,470 | 28,932,563 |

*2007-08 Supporting people spend on three young person client groups, by service type and accommodation type*

£

| | | Primary Client Group | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Service type* | *Accommodation type (where applicable)* | *Teenage parents* | *Young people at risk* | *Young people leaving care* | *Grand total* |
| Outreach services | | 285,262 | 727,462 | 371,543 | 1,384,267 |
| Resettlement Services | | 71,445 | 570,619 | 155,733 | 797,798 |
| Grand total | | 23,403,242 | 124,728,170 | 11,853,859 | 159,985,271 |

Some young people may yet still require additional help and that is why Communities and Local Government allocated over £220 million to local authorities and the voluntary sector between 2008-09 to 2010-11 to help them prevent and tackle homelessness in their areas.

The homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) provides a safety net for vulnerable young people who become homeless through no fault of their own. Under the legislation, local housing authorities must secure suitable accommodation for applicants who are eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and fall within a priority need group. The priority need groups include young people aged 16 or 17, young people aged between 18 and 20 who were previously in care, and young people aged 21 or over who are vulnerable as a result of having spent time in care. The duty continues until an offer of a settled home can be made.

### Homes and Communities Agency: Assets

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which third parties the Homes and Communities Agency is liable for the additional consideration on development assets referred to on page 87 of its Annual Report 2009; and if he will make a statement. [307134]

**John Healey:** Further to the information provided in note 31(c) on page 87 of the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) financial statement 2008-09, the third party referred to in the note is the Department of Health. The surplus public sector land referred to as being transferred to the agency in 2005-06, was a portfolio of 96 sites.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much land was owned by the Homes and Communities Agency in each of the last three years; what percentage of the land currently owned by the agency has been granted planning permission; and what percentage of the land is expected to be developed within the next *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months. [307135]

**John Healey:** The HCA came into existence on 1 December 2008, it therefore held no land in 2007.

For 2008 and 2009, figures are as follows:

| | *Hectares* |
|---|---|
| 2008 | 7982.1713 |
| 2009 | 8028.0811 |

It is not possible to provide an answer to the remaining parts of this question other than at disproportionate cost.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which third parties the Homes and Communities Agency is liable to for the community related asset transfers listed on page 87 of the Homes and Communities Agency Annual Report 2009; and if he will make a statement. [307267]

**John Healey:** To disclose this information would prejudice the commercial interests of the Homes and Communities Agency, as the transfer of these assets may take time and will be subject to ongoing financial negotiations.

### Homes and Communities Agency: Contracts

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 499W, on departmental contracts, which bodies are recorded as having contracts with the Homes and Communities Agency. [306722]

**John Healey:** A list of all the bodies having contracts with the Homes and Communities Agency has been deposited in the Library of the House. There are over 1,000 entries on the list which do not include non-contractual commitments, multiple entries for the same firm, or details of contracts entered into with individuals.

### Housing

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the effect on the housing market of Government policy on the provision of social care; and if he will make a statement. [305991]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society, "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods", recognises the challenges of an ageing society, and the impact on the demand for housing which is adaptable to people's changing needs and enables people to live more independently at home. The housing target of 240,000 new homes a year from 2016 onwards reflects long-term needs and changes in the age and type of households projected over the next 20 years.

"Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods" also recognises the increasing need for specialised housing such as care homes and extra care housing, and we welcome the recent report from the Housing our Ageing Population Panel for Innovation, which makes recommendations which aim to improve the choice and availability of specialised housing for older people.

## Housing: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the merits of proposals for a fabric energy efficiency standard for zero carbon homes. [306328]

**John Healey:** I announced in a written ministerial statement on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 42-49WS, the formation of a specialist task group to advise on the minimum energy efficiency standard for zero carbon homes. Following the work of that task group, the report of which I have placed in the Library of the House, I announced in a further written ministerial statement on 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 42-44WS, that:

> I am satisfied the task group's recommendations strike the right balance between a high level of ambition and a standard that can be realised in practice by 2016;
>
> I intend to use this standard within the definition of zero carbon homes; and
>
> I will be using our forthcoming consultation on updating the Code for Sustainable Homes to confirm that there are no unintended consequences from this standard and to seek views on the energy efficiency standard to be adopted in 2013.

## Housing: Energy

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average *(a)* current energy efficiency rating band and *(b)* potential energy efficiency rating band is for homes in each local authority area. [307115]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The information requested is not currently available centrally to respond to the question in the format requested.

## Housing: Finance

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much of the £50 million of social housing grant to allow local authorities to deliver new social housing announced in April has been spent in each region; [307006]

(2) how much of the £400 million of funding through Kickstart announced in April 2009 has been spent in each region; [307007]

(3) how much of the £250 million to allow local authorities to deliver new social housing referred to in the Prime Minister's Building Britain's Future announcement has been spent in each region; [307015]

(4) how much of the £660 million for Kickstart referred to in the Prime Minister's Building Britain's Future announcement has been spent in each region; [307016]

(5) how much of the £750 million to be allocated via the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing Programme referred to in the Prime Minister's Building Britain's Future announcement has been spent in each region. [307017]

**John Healey:** The Budget 2009 and Housing Pledge funding for Kickstart and LA New Build are treated as single spending programmes. The additional funding provided for NAHP as part of the Pledge is treated as part of the mainstream NAHP programme. The announced funding for each region listed as follows is given against these total budgets.

*Announcements 2009-10 (in £ millions)*

| *Region* | *NAHP* | *Kickstart round 1 (approved including approved subject to conditions)* | *LA New Build (approved)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | 132 | 22 | 0 |
| East Midlands | 42 | 50 | 16 |
| London | 521 | 64 | 41 |
| North East | 5 | 51 | 12 |
| North West | 61 | 62 | 17 |
| South East | 153 | 50 | 9 |
| South West | 162 | 25 | 10 |
| West Midlands | 94 | 68 | 8 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 61 | 56 | 27 |
| Total | 1,230 | 449 | 141 |

*Note:*
Figures may not sum due to roundings.

We have on 16 December 2009 also announced short-listed projects for round two of Kickstart for a share of up to £550 million. All the projects will now go through a rigorous final assessment by the Homes and Communities Agency to determine which will get the green light. As this funding is intended to support the housebuilding industry when it needs it most, one of the key factors will be the ability to complete building work by March 2012.

*Kickstart round 2 announcement of short-listed projects*

| *Region* | *Amount of investment (in £ millions)* |
|---|---|
| East of England | 73 |
| East Midlands | 61 |
| London | 94 |
| North East | 28 |
| North West | 72 |
| South East | 83 |
| South West | 63 |
| West Midlands | 46 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 30 |

The 2009-10 budget for each of these programmes is available in the Homes and Communities Agency's Corporate Plan 2009-10.

## Housing: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to provide accommodation in Leeds to meet the city's projected population increase. [306926]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Current market conditions are challenging, but there is strong pent-up demand for new homes. Therefore we remain committed to achieving a step-change in housing supply whilst recognising the scale of the challenge this entails, and want to see a swift and sustainable recovery in housing. A sufficient, suitable supply of land for housing, which responds to market signals and rising demand, will be critical to achieving this. We therefore announced a proposal to improve the quality of the five-year supply of economically viable sites that are required under PPS3 in the pre-Budget report, as well as other work to improve the delivery of housing.

We are keen to see all local authorities put in place an adopted Core Strategy. Leeds city council has the highest housing requirement figure in the country. Provision for this will be demonstrated in their emerging Core Strategy. The council has recently ended a round of formal consultation on this document, which has an expected publication date of September 2010 and submission in January 2011. It is hoped that the Core Strategy will be adopted by November 2011.

The scale of its housing requirements means that Leeds city council is a national priority. The Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber, the Planning Inspectorate, the Planning Advisory Service and the Department are giving as much aid and assistance as possible to ensure a prompt production of the Core Strategy to put in place the delivery mechanisms for housing to meet the requirements.

We have also taken measures to support the construction industry, including the biggest council house building programme for nearly two decades, from which I am pleased that Leeds has benefited. I am also pleased to be working with the Leeds City Region Partnership on its Urban Eco Settlement initiative, which includes the Aire Valley in Leeds where we are already investing Kickstart funding and which has further potential to contribute to the delivery of the housing that Leeds needs.

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average house price in Leeds West constituency was *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 15 years ago. [306037]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** House price information is not available by constituency only by local authority. The average house prices for Leeds are as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| January 1995 (earliest available data) | 57,747 |
| January 2000 | 60,499 |
| January 2005 | 133,378 |
| October 2009 (latest available data) | 129,565 |

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to enable Leeds housing associations to access funds provided by his Department for new housing development. [307430]

**John Healey:** The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) allocates funds through a process of Continuous Market Engagement (CME) whereby bids for funding can be submitted through this ongoing process following discussions with local authorities and HCA Investment and Regeneration Managers. Monthly clinics are held at which bids from housing associations are discussed and prioritised.

At the end of November 2009, £50.9 million had been allocated in Leeds for 1,609 homes under the 2008-11 National Affordable Housing Programme.

In addition, £3.5 million has been allocated to Leeds city council under the local authority Newbuild Round 1 programme for 63 homes.

Funds under the Kickstart round 1 programme worth £7.2 million, for 235 homes (subject to funding conditions) were announced in Leeds area in October 2009.

Kickstart Round 2 will allocate over £30 million across Yorkshire and Humber over 23 schemes including one in Leeds. This investment will support the delivery of approximately 1,488 homes in the region by March 2012.

## Housing: Valuation

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in England have a value of over £2 million. [307087]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information in the form requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However the Land Registry does publish information on the number of residential house sales over £2 million. These data are for England and Wales only and are published in their monthly House Price Index report.

In August 2009 there were 71 properties sold for over £2 million. This is 0.1 per cent. of the 53,236 transactions for the month.

## Housing: Water

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has held with housebuilders on the merits of including grey water recycling systems in new build homes. [306329]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Officials have an ongoing dialogue with representatives of the house building industry on a wide range of issues including on building standards for new homes.

## Infrastructure Planning Commission: Pay

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* basic salary, *(b)* bonus structure, *(c)* employers' pension contribution and *(d)* benefits in kind are for each commissioner and director, including the Chief Executive, of the Infrastructure Planning Commission; and what their contracted hours per week are in each case. [305943]

**John Healey:** The remuneration packages and range for the Infrastructure Planning Commission's (IPC) commissioners, chief executive officer and directors are provided in the following table:

*Infrastructure planning Commission (IPC)*

| *Title* | *Basic salary* | *Bonus structure* | *Employer's pension contribution* | *Benefits in kind* | *Contracted hours* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chair | £184,000 | None | Not pensionable | None | 4 days |
| Interim CEO (on secondment from CLG) | £105,000 | An annual non consolidated bonus up to 10 per cent. based on performance | CLG pension scheme PCSPS | None | 42 hours |
| Deputy chairs | £425 day rate | None | Not pensionable | None | Day rate |
| Commissioners | £385 day rate | None | Not pensionable | None | Day rate[1] |
| Directors | £90,000 to £100,000 | | LGPS contribution 14 per cent. | Relocation expenses up to £8,000 max for two directors | 42 hours |

[1] Commissioners will work between three to five days per week.

[2] Directors have an opportunity to earn a non consolidated, performance related bonus, details of which will be developed as part of future pay remits and in line with SCS arrangements.

## Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the commencement of each of the substantive provisions of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. [illegible]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The arrangements for the commencement of provisions contained in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 are set out in sections 148 and 149 of the Act. A number of provisions will come into force on a day specified by the Secretary of State.

Commencement Order No. 1 (2009 No. 3087 (C.137)) was made on 24 November 2009. This commenced a number of minor provisions relating to the local authority economic assessment duty and the regional strategy.

We plan to make a further commencement order shortly. The likely details of this are set out in the following table:

| *Provision* | *Commencement date* |
|---|---|
| Economic prosperity boards/combined authorities (Sections 88 to 113, sections 118 to 120 & Schedule 6) | Day after the order is made |
| Economic prosperity boards/combined authorities (Sections 114 to 117) | 12 January 2010 |
| Duty of public authorities to secure involvement | 1 April 2010 |
| Scrutiny officers (section 31) | 1 April 2010 |
| Local government boundary and electoral change | 1 April 2010 |
| Remaining provisions relating to the local authority economic assessment duty | 1 April 2010 |
| Remaining provisions relating to the regional strategy | 1 April 2010 |

My Department published a consultation on draft statutory guidance and secondary legislation to support the petitions duty on 2 December. The consultation includes questions about the most appropriate timescale for bringing the provisions into force. Ministers will take a decision about when to commence the petitions duty after the consultation closes on 24 February.

The Government recognise the importance of embedding the promotion of democracy and engagement of local people at the heart of local government. We have recently consulted on how best to engage with and strengthen the role of local people, to influence decisions in their local area and restore the status of the town hall by boosting the status, powers and accountability of local councils. We will be responding to the "Strengthening Local Democracy" consultation in due course.

The duty to promote democracy is important in helping take this work forward and we want to ensure that its introduction has a positive and proactive response from local government given the likely costs involved in implementing it effectively. We have therefore been looking at when the duty should be implemented. We have concluded that given the current economic situation implementation of the duty should be considered as part of the next spending review.

In respect of the audit and mutual insurance provisions in Part 2, it will be necessary to prepare and consult on draft regulations and guidance before we commence the provisions. Any final decision on commencement will depend on the outcome of this consultation.

The commencement date for construction contract provisions in Part 8 is dependent on the revision of the Scheme for Construction Contracts (England and Wales) Regulations 1998. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will consult on the necessary changes in the new year.

## Local Development Frameworks

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local planning authorities will be required to amend their Local Development Frameworks to bring them in line with National Policy Statements. [307269]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Local planning authorities must have regard to national policy, including National Policy Statements, when preparing development plan documents in their local development framework.

When National Policy Statements are adopted local planning authorities should have regard to them when they next review their LDF documents.

## Local Government

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the recent protocol to the Charter of Local Self-Government; and what steps will be required to implement the Charter's provisions in England. [306554]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I have today placed in the Library a copy of the Additional Protocol to The European Charter of Local Self-Government on the Right to Participate in the Affairs of a Local Authority which I signed on behalf of the United Kingdom at the recent conference of Ministers responsible for local and regional government at Utrecht. We intend, subject to Parliament not disagreeing, to ratify the Protocol as soon as practicable after consultation with the Local Government Association and other stakeholders and formally laying it before Parliament. As will be explained in the White Paper that we will present to Parliament when laying the Protocol, we believe that the United Kingdom already complies with the Protocol and no new legislative provision is required.

## Local Government Finance

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make an assessment of the potential efficiency savings which could be achieved through closer integration of local authority and national park authority *(a)* planning, *(b)* personnel and payroll, *(c)* democratic services and *(d)* marketing functions. [302197]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The English National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority are expected to operate as efficiently as possible. This includes sharing services with local authorities or other organisations whenever that is cost-effective and when they can do so without impeding their ability to deliver the statutory National Park purposes.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much gross revenue has been raised from the parish precept on council tax in each year since 1997-98. [307218]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested is in the following table.

*Parish precepts: England*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 144 |
| 1998-99 | 154 |
| 1999-2000 | 165 |
| 2000-01 | 181 |
| 2001-02 | 193 |
| 2002-03 | 210 |
| 2003-04 | 226 |
| 2004-05 | 241 |
| 2005-06 | 260 |
| 2006-07 | 279 |
| 2007-08 | 299 |
| 2008-09 | 322 |
| 2009-10 | 340 |

*Source:*
Budget Requirement (BR) returns from local authorities.

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita is planned to be provided through the (i) provisional local authority formula grant and (ii) adjusted provisional local authority formula grant in (A) England, (B) the South West Region, (C) each local authority in the South West Region in financial year (1) 2009-10 and (2) 2010-11; [307363]

(2) how much *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita was provided through the (i) local authority formula grant and (ii) adjusted local authority formula grant for (A) England, (B) the South West Region and (C) each local authority in the South West Region in each year from 1997-98 to 2008-09. [307364]

**Barbara Follett:** A table showing the year-on-year change on a like-for-like basis for all local authorities for the period 1998-99 to 2010-11 has been placed in the Library.

The Department only holds data on adjusted formula grant from 1997-98. This is because it only became necessary to make these adjustments when guarantees were introduced that ensured that no authority could lose grant, year-on-year, on a like-for-like basis. Consequently it is not possible to provide the increases on a like-for-like basis for 1997-98.

The previous year's formula grant is adjusted for changes in function and funding to enable a like-for-like comparison. This is the only purpose of the adjustment: the local authority's grant for the previous year is not changed.

Formula Grant comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates, principal formula Police Grant, SSA Reduction Grant (SSA Review), SSA Reduction Grant (Police Funding Review) and Central Support Protection Grant where appropriate.

Before 2006-07, support for schools was paid through formula grant. In 2006-07 funding for schools was transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant. That is why all authorities which have responsibility for schools will see a large decrease in their grant between 2005-06 and 2006-07 on an absolute (non like-for-like) basis.

Before 2006-07, the main measure of population used in the Local Government Finance Settlement was the sub-national estimates. From 2006-07 onwards, sub-national population projections were used instead. The per head figures have been calculated using the main measure of population used for each settlement.

## Local Government Services: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the application of the provisions of the Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982 to charged-for discretionary services. [307085]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department has not issued guidance to local authorities on the application of the provisions of the Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982 where the local authority charges for discretionary services provided by it.

Guidance to local authorities and other best value authorities on the general power to charge for discretionary services is given in guidance issued in 2003 and found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/151291.pdf

### Local Government: Compensation

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are on local authorities to have a policy on redress and compensation for failure of their services. [307076]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Local authorities are expected to have an effective complaints system that achieves redress for citizens if things go wrong. An independent review into redress for local authority services, which reported in June 2009, identified that clearly setting out what will happen if things go wrong alongside service standards was one of the areas that makes the biggest difference to the customer experience. The evidence considered by the review team showed that the key factor for people in feeling that their concern had been adequately dealt with was not receiving compensation, but having their problem effectively resolved.

A copy of the review is available on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/gettingitrightreport

### Local Government: Disabled People

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many claims for compensation against Chorley Borough Council for failure to comply with disability equality schemes have been upheld in the last two years. [305342]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not held centrally.

### Local Government: Pensions

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an assessment has been made of the effect of the reduction of gilt yields resulting from quantitative easing on the levels of Local Government Pension Scheme pension deficits. [306414]

**Barbara Follett:** The actuarial valuation exercise by Local Government Pension Scheme administering authorities due in March 2010 will take full account of this, and all the other factors which are relevant to each of the scheme's pension funds.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 16 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2211W, on advanced corporation tax relief, what the monetary value is of the additional sum that has been provided to mitigate the effect of the abolition of advanced corporation tax relief on the local government pension scheme in each year since 1998. [306753]

**Barbara Follett:** The reply given to the h[illegible]ember for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on [illegible]ebruary 2006, *Official Report*, column 2211W, confirmed that the value of the £130 million provided in 1998 to offset the impact of the abolition of advanced corporation tax on the Local Government Pension Scheme has been fully protected through indexation.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent annual report of each individual administering authority of the Local Government Pension Scheme that is held by his Department. [307116]

**Barbara Follett:** This information is not held centrally. However, administering authorities are required to publish their annual report locally. A copy of each authority's report can be obtained from that authority and, in some cases, from their website.

### Local Government: Per Capita Costs

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average central Government grant per capita was to *(a)* district councils, *(b)* unitary councils, *(c)* county councils, *(d)* metropolitan councils, *(e)* London boroughs, *(f)* police authorities and *(g)* fire authorities in each year since 1997-98. [306890]

**Barbara Follett:** The average central Government grant per capita for the classes of authority specified since 1997-98 is as follows:

*£ per head*

| | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| District councils | 65 | 62 | 63 | 65 | 68 | 71 | 78 | 75 | 79 | 91 | 94 | 98 |
| Unitary councils | 604 | 633 | 674 | 728 | 775 | 823 | 951 | 980 | 1,042 | 1,085 | 1,132 | 1,201 |
| County councils | 501 | 476 | 505 | 540 | 588 | 616 | 691 | 730 | 772 | 800 | 841 | 889 |
| Metropolitan councils | 674 | 723 | 775 | 834 | 897 | 947 | 1,097 | 1,165 | 1,238 | 1,288 | 1,341 | 1,414 |
| London boroughs | 801 | 841 | 890 | 947 | 1,006 | 1,052 | 1,184 | 1,239 | 1,307 | 1,355 | 1,416 | 1,473 |
| Police authorities[1] | 117 | 120 | 122 | 108 | 115 | 118 | 126 | 130 | 136 | 135 | 142 | 145 |

*£ per head*

| | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fire authorities[3] | 12 | 12 | 13 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 24 | 24 | 22 | 22 | 23 |

[1] From 2000-01 onwards Metropolitan Police Authority data are collected within Greater London Authority. Hence separate data are not available.

[2] From 2000-01 onwards London Fire and Civil Defence Authority data are collected within Greater London Authority. Hence separate data are not available.

[3] From 2004-05 onwards Combined Fire Authorities (CFA) became precepting authorities.

Source:

Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns from 1997-98 to 2008-09

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of Formula Grant (revenue support grant, redistributed non-domestic rates and police grant), Greater London Authority (GLA) grant and specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services. In past years, where applicable the SSA reduction grant and Central Support Protection Grants have also been included. From 2008-09 it also includes Area Based Grant (ABG).

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Per capita figures are calculated using Office for National Statistics' (ONS) Mid-Year Population estimates from 1997 to 2008.

From 2000-01 onwards Metropolitan Police Authority and London Fire and Civil Defence Authority data are collected within Greater London Authority returns. Hence separate data are not available.

From 2004-05 Combined Fire Authorities (CFA) became precepting authorities. Prior to this CFAs levied on county councils' budget requirements.

Comparison across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

### Local Government: Reorganisation

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for the restructuring of local government in Norfolk, Suffolk and Devon. [306751]

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to lay before Parliament an order to implement unitary local government in Devon, Norfolk or Suffolk. [306471]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** As I told the House on 8 December, *Official Report*, column 13WS, until 19 January 2010 representations may be made to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State about the Boundary Committee's advice on unitary proposals for Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk, and about the unitary proposals made by Exeter, Ipswich and Norwich.

Thereafter, recognising the need to end uncertainty, the Secretary of State intends to move forward as quickly as practicable. Having regard to the Boundary Committee's advice, all the representations he receives, and all other relevant information available to him, he intends to take his statutory decisions as to whether to implement, with or without modification, any of the unitary proposals before him, or to take no action.

If the Secretary of State decides to implement a proposal, he will lay before Parliament a draft of an order which, if approved, he will make to give effect to his decision.

### Local Government: Standards

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* the Audit Commission and *(b)* local authorities of the Comprehensive Area Assessment regime to date. [306749]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) is a joint inspectorate assessment framework that replaces several preceding assessments and the annual cost of delivering it spans the relevant inspectorates, and their sponsoring Departments.

The cost to the Audit Commission of its work on CAA is covered by a mixture of the fees paid by local authorities and direct grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). In 2009-10, the first year of CAA, the cost is estimated to be £26.9 million. This is funded by £6.7 million inspection fees paid by local authorities, and £20.2 million grant from CLG which includes Fire and Rescue Authority work. The Use of Resources element of CAA is included in the work of auditors appointed by the Commission which is funded by audit fees paid by local authorities.

The Audit Commission, on behalf of the joint inspectorates responsible for CAA, has commissioned an independent evaluation of CAA. This will look at implementation and delivery of the new arrangements, co-ordination across inspectorates and the initial cost to inspected bodies. A report is expected in March 2010.

### Local Government: Suffolk

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse has been of legal costs associated with the High Court and Court of Appeal cases on the Boundary Committee's Structural Review of Suffolk. [306808]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** All the legal costs of all the parties in this case will fall on the public purse. The Court of Appeal has made an order requiring the councils which initiated the case—Forest Heath district council, St. Edmundsbury borough council and Suffolk Coastal district council—to pay all of the Boundary Committee's costs in the administrative court and the Court of Appeal, in addition to their own costs. Whilst we do not hold information as to the amount of the costs of the authorities or of the Boundary Committee, we assess that the Secretary of State's legal costs, to be met by him as an interested party in the case, are some £34,300.

### Mass Media

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency, *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority, *(c)* the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit and *(d)* his Department on media monitoring since the start of 2009-10. [305967]

**John Healey:** Since the start of financial year 2009-10, the Homes and Communities Agency, has spent £22,658.20 (not including VAT) on media monitoring. The Tenant Services Authority has spent £13,747.70 (including VAT) and the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit has identified costs of £756.0 (not including VAT). The Department has spent £266,835 (including VAT) on media monitoring. The figure for the Department comprises the subscription charges to the Central Office of Information's Media Monitoring Service and externally procured contracts for national and regional press cuttings.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency, *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority, *(c)* the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit and *(d)* his Department on media monitoring in each of the last three years. [305968]

**John Healey:** The Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenant Services Authority were both created on the 1 December 2008. Between 1 December 2008 and 31 March 2009, the Homes and Communities Agency spent £8,475.30 (not including VAT) on media monitoring. Over the same period, the Tenant Services Authority spent £10,160.34 (including VAT) on media monitoring. The National Housing and Planning Advice Unit were established in February 2007. It did not subscribe to a media monitoring service in that financial year. For financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 figures are not separately identifiable.

In financial year 2008-09, the Department spent a total of £335,935.13 on media monitoring. The figure for the Department comprises the subscription charges to the Central Office of Information's Media Monitoring Service and externally procured contracts for national and regional press cuttings.

In respect of monitoring for financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tooting (Mr. Khan) to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1138-39W.

### Mortgages: Government Assistance

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many and what proportion of mortgage lenders have declined to participate directly in the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme; [306892]

(2) which sub-prime lenders have refused to take part in the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [307142]

**John Healey:** We have acted rapidly to put in place a range of help and support at every stage for households struggling with their mortgage. Homeowners Mortgage Support provides a valuable backstop if repossession cannot be prevented in other ways by giving struggling borrowers a breathing space to recover their finances. Lenders covering over 90 per cent. of the residential mortgage market (based on 2008 data from the Council of Mortgage Lenders) have committed to offering this level of extended forbearance: of these, lenders representing over 50 per cent. of the market are offering the Government-backed scheme and over 40 per cent. of the market are offering similar levels of support through their own forbearance without the need for Government guarantee. A list of these lenders can be accessed at:

www.direct.gov.uk/hms

The Government are continuing to engage with those lenders who have not yet made a clear commitment to offer Homeowners Mortgage Support. The Financial Services Authority published the conclusions of its Mortgage Markets Review in October, setting out plans to strengthen regulation of arrears management and charges. This is to include converting their current guidance on forbearance into binding rules that prescribe a non-exhaustive list of tools that firms must employ to help consumers in arrears, including consideration of Government schemes put in place to help borrowers.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the accepted offers by households under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme between January and September 2009 have been recorded as completed. [306919]

**John Healey:** All accepted offers reported by local authorities between January and September 2009 had also been recorded as completed by the end of September 2009 by the Homes and Communities Agency following draw down of grant by the registered social landlord.

The data on the Mortgage Rescue Scheme are official statistics, under which an accepted offer is recorded once contracts between the household, lender and registered social landlord have been signed and finalised.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the £80 million for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme announced in April has been spent in each region. [307005]

**John Healey:** We have acted rapidly to put in place a range of help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage, and launched a campaign to ensure households have clear information about the help available.

In April's Budget we announced increased help for homeowners facing repossession, including an expansion of the mortgage rescue scheme to include households in negative equity.

Data published in November for the July to September period show that there were over 1,100 'live' cases, of which 690 cases had benefited from action to stop the immediate threat of repossession and almost 100 households had completed the process and been able to remain in their homes. Regional spend to end September is broken down as follows:

| *Region* | *Total spend (£)* |
|---|---|
| East Midlands | 324,128 |
| Eastern | 1,577,092 |
| London | 803,878 |
| North West | 997,539 |
| South East | 950,950 |
| South West | 275,159 |
| West Midlands | 2,090,657 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 268,866 |
| Total | 7,288,269 |

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when figures for the take-up of the *(a)* Mortgage Rescue Scheme and *(b)* Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme will next be published. [307073]

**John Healey:** We have acted rapidly to put in place a range of help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage, and launched a campaign to ensure households have clear information about the help available.

Mortgage Rescue Scheme summary monitoring statistics are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website. Figures can be accessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

Statistics for the October—December period will be published on 11 February 2010.

Management information on Homeowners Mortgage Support was released by the Department on 9 December 2009. Figures can be accessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1408110

Information on Homeowners Mortgage Support will next be published by spring 2010.

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in City of York Council area have participated in the Government's temporary scheme to reduce the number of mortgage repossessions during the economic downturn. [307384]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Members for Ashford (Damian Green), Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) and Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb) on 14 December, *Official Report*, columns 914-915W.

## Non-Domestic Rates

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have exercised their powers under section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to reduce or remit the payment of business rates in cases of hardship in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 on the latest date for which figures are available. [306894]

**Barbara Follett:** The following local authorities have reported to Communities and Local Government that they granted hardship relief in 2008-09, the latest date for which figures are available:

Aylesbury Vale, Barnsley, Basingstoke and Deane, Bedford, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Blyth Valley, Bradford, Brighton and Hove, Bristol, Broxbourne, Cannock Chase, Castle Morpeth, Charnwood, Crewe and Nantwich, Daventry, Derby, Derwentside, Easington, East Devon, East Hampshire, East Lindsey, East Riding of Yorkshire, East Staffordshire, Eastleigh, Exeter, Forest Heath, Forest of Dean, Greenwich, Hackney, Harrogate, High Peak, Horsham, Huntingdonshire, Ipswich, Kennet, Kensington and Chelsea, Kerrier, Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, Kirklees, Knowsley, Leeds, Leicester UA, Lewes, Luton UA, Macclesfield, Mansfield, Mendip, Mid Bedfordshire, Mid Sussex, Middlesbrough, Milton Keynes, North Cornwall, North East Derbyshire, North East Lincolnshire, North Tyneside, North Warwickshire, Norwich, Purbeck, Redcar and Cleveland, Richmondshire, Rother, Rotherham, Salisbury, Sandwell, Scarborough, Sedgemoor, Selby, Sevenoaks, Sheffield, Shepway, Slough, South Bedfordshire, South Derbyshire, South Gloucestershire, South Lakeland, South Northamptonshire, South Ribble, St. Albans, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud, Sutton, Tendring, Tewkesbury, Thanet, Tower Hamlets, Tynedale, Vale Royal, Wandsworth, Warrington, Waveney, West Devon, West Dorset, West Wiltshire, Westminster, Weymouth and Portland, Wigan, Woking, Wolverhampton, Wychavon, Wycombe, Wyre Forest.

The information was reported on the annual national non-domestic rates (NNDR3) form completed by all billing authorities in England.

Data for 2009-10 will not be available until the autumn of 2010.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which 50 individual hereditaments in Greater London have the greatest percentage increase in rateable values from the 2005 rating list to the draft 2010 rating list; what the rateable value was in each case *(a)* before and *(b)* after revaluation; and what the (i) address and (ii) local billing authority is in each case. [305815]

**Barbara Follett:** The table shows the billing authority and the rateable values on the 2005 Rating List and on the draft 2010 Rating List of the 50 individual hereditaments in Greater London which saw the biggest percentage increase in the period between the two lists, as at 29 May 2009. These data are consistent with the consultation document titled: "The Transitional Arrangements for the Non-Domestic Rating Revaluation 2010 in England", published on 8 July 2009. A copy of this can be found at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

No address information other than postcode is held in the dataset used for the analysis. The address, 2005 list rateable value and 2010 draft list rateable value from the live database for each hereditament in the central and local rating lists are published on the Valuation Office Agency's website and this information is updated weekly:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/

£

| *Rank* | *Billing authority* | *Rateable value on the 2005 ratings list* | *Rateable value on the draft 2010 ratings list* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Hackney | 1 | 11,000 |

£

| Rank | Billing authority | Rateable value on the 2005 ratings list | Rateable value on the draft 2010 ratings list |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Bromley | 1,000 | 16,000 |
| 3 | Islington | 23,000 | 450,000 |
| 4 | Hackney | 13,000 | 225,000 |
| 5 | Haringey | 1,000 | 8,000 |
| 6 | Greenwich | 5,000 | 68,000 |
| 7 | Bromley | 1,000 | 8,000 |
| 8 | Southwark | 14,000 | 185,000 |
| 9 | Harrow | 1,000 | 10,000 |
| 10 | Bromley | 3,000 | 37,000 |
| 11 | Tower Hamlets | 10,000 | 108,000 |
| 12 | Hackney | 8,000 | 83,000 |
| 13 | Hillingdon | 14,000 | 141,000 |
| 14 | Sutton | 1,000 | 12,000 |
| 15 | Tower Hamlets | 21,000 | 206,000 |
| 16 | Brent | [1]— | 3,000 |
| 17 | Tower Hamlets | [1]— | 3,000 |
| 18 | Hackney | 6,000 | 55,000 |
| 19 | Wandsworth | 1,000 | 7,000 |
| 20 | Camden | 76,000 | 665,000 |
| 21 | Richmond upon Thames | 3,000 | 24,000 |
| 22 | Tower Hamlets | [1]— | 3,000 |
| 23 | City of Westminster | 8,000 | 70,000 |
| 24 | Ealing | 10,000 | 84,000 |
| 25 | Kensington and Chelsea | 1,000 | 11,000 |
| 26 | Greenwich | 6,000 | 46,000 |
| 27 | Hammersmith and Fulham | 2,000 | 17,000 |
| 28 | Greenwich | 2,000 | 16,000 |
| 29 | Greenwich | 3,000 | 21,000 |
| 30 | Southwark | 6,000 | 43,000 |
| 31 | Lambeth | 13,000 | 96,000 |
| 32 | Islington | 3,000 | 20,000 |
| | Islington | 5,000 | 35,000 |
| 34 | Newham | [1]— | 3,000 |
| 35 | Southwark | 2,000 | 14,000 |
| 36 | Enfield | 1,000 | 3,000 |
| 37 | Tower Hamlets | 11,000 | 70,000 |
| 38 | Lambeth | 3,000 | 16,000 |
| 39 | Islington | 5,000 | 32,000 |
| 40 | Barnet | 9,000 | 59,000 |
| 41 | Barnet | 9,000 | 59,000 |
| 42 | Barnet | 7,000 | 46,000 |
| 43 | Enfield | 20,000 | 126,000 |
| 44 | Tower Hamlets | 55,000 | 350,000 |
| 45 | Camden | 23,000 | 146,000 |
| 46 | City of Westminster | 19,000 | 121,000 |
| 47 | Barnet | 2,000 | 13,000 |
| 48 | Newham | 4,000 | 26,000 |
| 49 | City of Westminster | 12,000 | 71,000 |
| 50 | City of London | 17,000 | 100,000 |

[1] Less than £500.

*Note:*

The figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Rateable values are based on rental value at a set valuation date—1 April 2003 and 1 April 2008 for the 2005 and the new 2010 rating lists respectively. At each revaluation a completely fresh valuation of each property is made and it is to be expected that values will change at differential rates reflecting the change in demand for property over time.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

## Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Riverside of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 75W, on non-domestic rates: ports, if he will place in the Library a copy of the communication received from the trade association. [306548]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 823-24W.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of how many individual hereditaments in each port he expects backdated payments of business rates to be required. [307041]

**Barbara Follett:** As of 26 October 2009, there are 727 hereditaments within the 45 large statutory ports and container terminals in England with a liability for business rates backdated to 1 April 2005.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some within ports. It has legislated to allow such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years period rather than in one single instalment. This will help affected businesses to manage their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay immediately by 87 per cent.

As at 8 October 2009, local authorities have reported that ratepayers occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and ratepayers occupying a further 200 business properties within ports had been granted a schedule of payments.

## Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what primary description codes the Valuation Office Agency uses for classifying hereditaments for business rates. [306386]

**Ian Pearson:** I h[illegible] been asked to reply.

The primary description codes contained within the Rating Lists will be placed in the Library.

### Non-Domestic Rates: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty commercial properties in City of York Council area were exempt from commercial rates under the Government's temporary exemption scheme in 2009; what the monetary value was of the rate income foregone; and what the financial effects of such relief on City of York Council were. [307385]

**Barbara Follett:** Data about the number of empty commercial properties in 2009 have not yet been collected. It is planned that these data will be requested from all billing authorities in England as at 31 December 2009.

Data on the value of the empty property rate relief granted in 2009-10 will be collected on the annual national non-domestic rates (NNDR3) form completed by all billing authorities in England after the end of the current financial year.

Any non-domestic rate relief granted because properties are empty has no financial effect on a billing authority. Any relief granted reduces the amount of national non-domestic rates an authority will be able to collect and subsequently required to contribute to the national non-domestic rates pool. If an authority awards more relief than envisaged at the budget stage, and consequently collects less non-domestic rates, measures are available to the authority to reduce its contribution to the pool either within year or after the year has ended.

### North East Economic Forum

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Government Office for the North East and *(c)* the North East Assembly has provided to the North East Economic Forum in each year since 2005. [305924]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department for Communities and Local Government, Government Office for the North East and the North East Assembly (and its successor body) have not made any payments to the North East Economic Forum.

### Ordnance Survey

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will limit the free release of Ordnance Survey data to that, in respect of which the Government is a monopoly supplier. [307755]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Prime Minister proposed on 17 November to release for free and for reuse, including commercially, some Ordnance Survey data relating to administrative and electoral boundaries, mid-scale mapping and postcode areas. The purpose of the forthcoming consultation is to set out the proposal in greater detail and to hear feedback, including on the impact on the wider market in which Ordnance Survey operates.

### Planning

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written statement of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 38WS, on departmental expenditure limit (2009-10), what the unfunded legal challenges on planning that have required the £400,000 of funding were; and for what reasons each such challenge was made. [307215]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** In 2008 appeals were submitted against non-determination of three planning applications for sustainable urban extensions in Daventry. Funding was provided to enable West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC) to be represented at the inquiry. Further details of the appeals are published on the WNDC website;

http://www.wndc.co.uk/whats_happening_in_my_area/daventry/daventry_planning_appeals/daventry_planning_appeals_home.aspx

### Property Development: Floods

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress is being made on the revision of building regulations to ensure that new or refurbished buildings in high flood-risk areas are flood resistant and resilient. [305074]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** We continue to take forward policy development, including on flood resilience and resistance, in preparation for a wider public consultation on Parts A (Structure) and C (Site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture) as set out in the "Future of Building Control—Implementation Plan".

In advance of this, we will also be consulting in the spring of 2010 on issues that might be reflected in future flood performance standards for new buildings and repairs and how they might be incorporated in the Building Regulations. This consultation will also inform decisions on any legislative changes that may be needed in advance of those planned in the "Future of Building Control".

### Public Bodies: Pay

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's publication Amending the accounts and audit regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No. 533) to improve the transparency of reporting of remuneration of senior officials in public bodies: Summary of responses and Government response, if he will place in the Library a copy of the full response from the *(a)* Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors, *(b)* Association of Local Authority Chief Executives, *(c)* Association of Principal Fire Officers, *(d)* Audit Commission, *(e)* Broads Authority, *(f)* Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, *(g)* Fire Officers' Association, *(h)* GMB-Britain's General Union, *(i)* Greater Manchester Pension Fund, *(j)* Information Commissioner's Office Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, *(k)* Local Government Employers, *(l)* Merseyside Pension Fund, *(m)* National Association of Local Councils and

Somerset Association of Local Councils, *(n)* North Yorkshire Pension Fund Committee, *(o)* Police Authority Treasurers' Society, *(p)* Society of County Treasurers, *(q)* Society of District Council Treasurers, *(r)* Society of Local Authority Chief Executives Enterprises and *(s)* UNISON. [306437]

**Barbara Follett:** The responses on the consultation to amend the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No. 533) in order to improve the transparency of reporting of remuneration of senior officials in public bodies were published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website on 30 November this year at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/1364495

### Public Houses: Valuation

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many public houses of special category codes 226 and 227 and primary description code CL were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List in each local authority area in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [306556]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

Special category codes 226 and 227 did not refer to Public Houses in the 1995 Rating Lists. However, I have deposited a table in the Library of the House which includes the number of public houses in the Rating Lists for each local authority in England, with primary description code CL, at April 1997 and primary description code CL and special category codes 226 and 227 at April 2009.

### Regional Government

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Dorset of 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 314W, on regional government: South West, what the successor body to each regional assembly is; how much funding is being allocated in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 to each such body; and what structure and powers each such body will have that regional assemblies do not. [307213]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Regional assemblies were designated as regional planning body with responsibility for drafting the regional spatial strategy. Following the commencement of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act the single regional strategy will be jointly prepared by local authority leaders' boards and regional development agencies.

The funding allocated to regional assemblies or local authority leaders' boards in 2009-10 was:

| | *Funding (£)* |
|---|---|
| North East Regional Assembly | 1,747,000 |
| North West Regional Leaders Forum (4NW) | 2,605,910 |
| Yorkshire and Humber Assembly | 1,969,000 |
| West Midlands Regional Assembly | 2,113,946 |
| East Midlands Regional Assembly | 2,105,100 |
| East of England Regional Assembly | £2,077,500 |
| South East of England Regional Assembly | 3,166,628 |
| South West Regional Assembly | 2,070,148 |

Allocations for 2010-11 have yet to be made however regional assemblies or local authority leaders' boards have been told that overall resources need to be reduced by 10 per cent.

The structure of local authority leaders' boards is a matter for each region. Local authorities in a region are required to consult with stakeholders and submit a scheme establishing the structure to the Secretary of State for approval. Local authority leaders' boards do not have additional powers beyond those in respect of the single regional strategy.

### Regional Planning and Development

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1070W, on the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, what the timetable is for the other regional assemblies to be redesignated as new regional planning bodies. [306542]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act provides for participating authorities to make a scheme for the establishment and operation of Local Authority Leader's Boards. The Regional Development Agencies and the Leader's Boards will become the Responsible Regional Authority in each region who will be responsible for the future revision of their Regional Strategy.

On the 25 November 2009 the Commencement Orders implementing provisions establishing Leader's Boards came into effect. Following consultation with stakeholders the participating local authorities will submit schemes for establishing Local Authority Leader's Boards to the Secretary of State for approval.

There is no fixed timetable but the Regional Strategy elements of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act will commence on the 1st April 2010 at which point the designated Regional Planning Body role ceases to exist. We would hope that Leaders Board schemes would be received and approved by then.

### Repossession Orders

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in *(a)* City of York constituency, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber region and *(c)* the UK were repossessed in each year since 1979. [307387]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However, both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on repossessions is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2357

The Financial Services Authority data is available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

### Shared Ownership Schemes: Yorkshire and the Humber

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to encourage the development of shared ownership housing schemes in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* West Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [306933]

**John Healey:** We support people's aspirations to sustainable home ownership and have introduced a number of measures for first time buyers in response to current market conditions. The Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) principal product for shared ownership is Newbuild Homebuy. This is shared ownership with a housing association or partner available to households on annual income of £60,000 or less.

In this financial year, so far Yorkshire and the Humber has delivered 211 units of low cost home ownership principally through the National Affordable Housing Programme. Of these 117 are in West Yorkshire, 20 in Leeds. The outturn figures for 2008-09 show 723 units of low cost home ownership across Yorkshire and the Humber, 313 in West Yorkshire, 110 in Leeds.

Provision of low cost home ownership is a valuable tool in providing a mix of tenures in sustainable communities. HCA works closely with local authorities and partners to determine the most appropriate and sustainable mix of tenures in any given location.

### Sheltered Housing

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the provisions of the Decent Homes Standard apply to residents of almshouses who are not in properties managed by registered social landlords. [303518]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The decent homes standard only applies to social housing providers registered with the Tenant Services Authority. The standard does not apply to charitable organisations but the Almshouses Association can provide advice about accessing funding for improvements.

In order to tackle the worst housing conditions, in April 2006, we introduced the housing health and safety rating system. This is a new way of assessing properties to make homes safer and applies to all residential properties. If a local authority considers that there is a serious (Category 1) hazard, it has a duty to take the most appropriate action. This can include serving an "improvement notice" on the landlord to remove the Category 1 hazard within a reasonable period of time. It is believed that responsible landlords will need, and want to be able to identify those factors that may cause hazards and carry out improvements accordingly.

### Sleeping Rough and Homelessness

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what data his Department holds on the age profile of *(a)* rough sleepers and *(b)* homeless households; and if he will make a statement. [307211]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The annual headline figure for rough sleeping published by the Department, based on local authority street counts, does not include information on age profile.

Some information on the age profile of rough sleepers, covering London only, is available from the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) database which records information about rough sleepers and contacts made by outreach services with rough sleepers.

Data from the CHAIN database show that of the rough sleepers contacted by outreach services during 2008-09, 8 per cent. are 18-25 years; 26 per cent. are 26-35 years; 35 per cent. are 36-45 years, 20 per cent. are 46-55 years and 11 per cent. are over 55 years.

For part *(b)* of the question above, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 991W.

### Social Rented Housing: Finance

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many funding streams to local authorities and social landlords for housing there are *(a)* in total and *(b)* managed by the Homes and Communities Agency. [306410]

**John Healey:** Information on Communities and Local Government and Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) programme funding streams on housing are set out in the Department's published annual report 2009, and for the HCA in its published annual report and financial statement for 2008-09 and its published corporate plan for 2009-10.

The CLG annual report can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/annualreport09

The HCA report can be found at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/Annual-Report-2009

### Social Rented Housing: Standards

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of homes which have not reached the decent homes standard referred to in the Green Paper on Housing published by his Department's predecessor in 2000 by 2010. [306750]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The HCA have estimated using the latest landlord statistics that we expect 304,700 (8 per cent.) of social homes to be classed as non-decent by the end of 2010.

### Swimming Pools: Valuation

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority swimming pools were on the Valuation Office Agency's rating list in England in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [306390]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

The Valuation Office Agency data did not differentiate between local authority and private swimming pools in the 1995 Rating Lists. As at 1 April 1997 a total of 710 swimming pools were included in the rating lists for England, against special category code (SCAT 282).

A special category code (SCAT 272), specific to local authority swimming pools exists in the current Rating Lists. As at 1 April 2009 there were 490 swimming pools recorded against this SCAT code.

Local authority swimming pools may also be included in hereditaments listed under other special category codes, such as that for local authority sports and leisure centres. Information on the number of pools within hereditaments listed under other special category codes could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Tenant Services Authority: Public Relations

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who in his Department authorised the Tenant Services Authority to enter into a contract with the public affairs company APCO. [307035]

**John Healey:** The Tenant Services Authority did not seek authorisation from this Department because it was not required to do so.

Part 2, Chapter 2 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (2008 Act) establishes that there will be a corporate body known as the regulator for social housing. The regulator is the Tenant Services Authority (TSA); the 2008 Act establishes that it is not a servant of the Crown and can therefore determine its own procedures.

### Thames Gateway Delivery Unit: Public Appointments

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date each chief executive of the Thames Gateway Delivery Unit took up the appointment. [306747]

**Mr. Malik:** Judith Armitt, the former chief executive of the former Thames Gateway Executive took up her appointment on 1 November 2006.

### Town Centres: Government Assistance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* rural villages and *(b)* market towns are eligible for funding from the Town Centre Initiative Fund. [306833]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Funding for the initiative was allocated by considering areas in England within the top half of the index of multiple deprivation that also had higher shop vacancy rates. We recognise that rural areas have also been affected by the downturn and 30 per cent. of local authorities receiving grants under the recent announcement earlier this month are from rural areas.

## HEALTH

### Accident and Emergency Departments: Greater London

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people resident in each constituency who have used accident and emergency services at *(a)* Whittington Hospital, Islington, *(b)* North Middlesex Hospital, Haringey, *(c)* Royal Free Hospital, Camden and *(d)* University College London Hospital in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [307506]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Ambulance Services: Crimes of Violence

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many physical assaults on staff of NHS ambulance service trusts were reported in each of the last three financial years; [307430]

(2) how many *(a)* prosecutions were brought and *(b)* cautions or conditional cautions were issued following assaults against NHS staff in ambulance service trusts in each of the last three financial years; [307431]

(3) what the average cost per unit is of protective anti-stab vests suitable for use by NHS ambulance trust frontline emergency response personnel; [307580]

(4) which NHS ambulance trusts *(a)* do and *(b)* do not issue protective anti-stab vests as standard to their frontline emergency response personnel; [307581]

(5) what guidance has been issued to NHS ambulance trusts on the provision of protective anti-stab vests for frontline emergency response personnel. [307582]

**Ann Keen:** Since 2004-05, the number of physical assaults against staff reported by national health service bodies in England has been collected annually by the NHS Security Management Service (SMS). The number of physical assaults on staff of NHS ambulance service trusts in England reported in each of the last three financial years is shown in the following table.

| | *Assaults* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 1,006 |
| 2007-08 | 1,465 |
| 2008-09 | 1,240 |

Information on the numbers of prosecutions, cautions and conditional cautions issued following assaults against NHS staff in ambulance service trusts in each of the last three financial years is not available centrally in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Since 2004-05, the SMS has collated annual figures on all types of reported criminal sanctions following cases of assault. The number of such sanctions reported in each of the last three financial years is shown in the following table.

| | *Criminal sanctions* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 142 |
| 2007-08 | 237 |
| 2008-09 | 241 |

Criminal sanctions include:

- cautions and conditional cautions;
- community rehabilitation or punishment orders;
- imprisonment, including suspended sentences;
- conditional discharges; and
- fines.

Information on the average cost per unit is of protective anti-stab vests suitable for use by NHS ambulance trust frontline emergency response personnel is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Decisions on providing protective equipment for ambulance service staff, whether as standard or following risk assessment, are for the employing trusts to make. Information on which NHS ambulance trusts issue protective anti-stab vests as standard to their frontline emergency response personnel is not available centrally.

The SMS can assist employers through guidance on assessing risks and acting to protect staff and, where incidents do occur, on taking action against offenders. The SMS also works with stakeholders, including the Social Partnership Forum, to promote the safety and security of NHS staff. In 2006 the SMS issued the results of a study into the use of protective equipment for ambulance staff, conducted as part of the "Safer Hospitals Project". The information provided in this study informs ambulance trusts on the issues they should consider when assessing whether to provide protective anti-stab vests for frontline emergency response personnel.

### Ambulance Services: Standards

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance has been issued to NHS ambulance trusts on establishing criteria to use in setting target response times for Category C patients who require an ambulance response. [307429]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Since 1 October 2004, local national health service organisations have had responsibility for managing and monitoring the ways in which local services respond to Category C calls (i.e. those presenting conditions that are not immediately serious or life threatening).

### Autism

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future role of the External Reference Group on autism strategy following the submission of its report to his Department. [307321]

**Phil Hope:** The External Reference Group (ERG) has made an invaluable contribution to the development of the autism strategy and we look forward to continuing to work with them in the delivery of that strategy.

Consultation with the ERG is a vital part of the development process, we will be looking for them to comment on the draft strategy, as well as discuss how the recommendations from the ERG report will be taken forward.

We will also be looking for their input into the communications plan for the launch and dissemination of the strategy, and the consultation on guidance for commissioners and providers, due in late 2010.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the implementation of New Horizons will help meet the needs of people with autism who also have mental health problems. [307310]

**Phil Hope:** The New Horizons document recognises that there are many social groups who either engage less well with services or those who are at higher risk of developing mental health problems and of social exclusion.

The needs of people with mental health conditions who also have other issues such as those with a learning disability or autism will be further addressed as part of the developing programme of work.

"Valuing People Now" sets out the importance of enabling people with learning disabilities who have mental health support needs to get the appropriate assessment and treatment they require delivered in the right place. In particular, they need to be able to access mainstream mental health services. Strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and providers need to ensure that they commission services and develop care pathways that address the needs of people with learning disabilities who also have mental health support needs.

The Department is currently drafting a strategy for adults with autistic spectrum condition and will seek to ensure that this work is closely aligned to "New Horizons".

Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

### Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Trust

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many visits members of his Department have made to Basildon and Thurrock NHS Trust in the last five years; and what the date and purpose of each visit was. [307700]

**Phil Hope:** The Department keeps records of ministerial visits dating back to January 2007. The following ministerial visits were undertaken during the period January 2007-December 2009. To provide figures for visits by departmental officials would be possible only at disproportionate costs.

| | *Visits* |
|---|---|
| *Alan Johnson* | |
| 30 July 2007 | Tour facilities and staff engagement session, toured cardiothoracic centre and mental health unit, met with staff and patients; staff engagement session |
| 4 October 2007 | Tour of building, official opening of cardiothoracic centre and engagement with staff |
| *Lord Darzi* | |
| 4 October 2007 | Tour of building, official opening of cardiothoracic centre and engagement with staff |

### Cancer: Health Services

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what auditing procedures are used to verify the quality and the consistency of the head and neck cancer treatment data received by the Three Counties Cancer Network from Gloucestershire Royal hospital. [307240]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not held centrally. The hon. Member may wish to approach Gloucestershire primary care trust, which is acting on behalf of the three counties cancer network, for this information directly.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of a two-site head and neck cancer surgical centre model, based at Worcestershire Royal hospital and Gloucestershire Royal hospital; and if he will make a statement. [307241]

**Ann Keen:** No such assessment has been undertaken by the Department. It is for the three counties cancer network to plan and develop appropriate cancer services, including those relating to head and neck cancer, in the Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire areas.

## Cancer: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the survival rate for patients with cancer at each hospital in Leeds was in each of the last 20 years. [306954]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. Information on one-year and five-year survival rates for all cancers combined are not routinely produced. The "Cancer Reform Strategy's" second annual report, "Achieving Local Implementation", includes the latest one-year survival information on the number of cancer patients alive one year after diagnosis for the three major cancers, breast, colorectal and lung. A copy of the report has already been placed in the Library. The information that is available is shown in the following table:

*Leeds primary care trust (PCT)*

| | One-year survival rates (percentage) 2006 |
|---|---|
| Breast cancer | 95.4 |
| Colorectal cancer | 70.8 |
| Lung cancer | 28.5 |

*Notes:*

1. The second annual report of the "Cancer Reform Strategy: Achieving Local Implementation", can be accessed via:
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_109338
2. The figures are for 2006, as this is the latest available from the national cancer information service.

## Cannabis: Misuse

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* people and *(b)* people under 18 years old were treated for cannabis-induced psychosis in each of the last five years. [307362]

**Phil Hope:** Data are not collected centrally about how many people were treated for cannabis-induced psychosis each year because data counts patient episodes, not individual patient numbers, and individual patients may be seen more than once during each year.

Data are collected centrally about the number of finished hospital admission episodes for patients with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids, under the care of a mental health consultant. This information is shown in the following table.

Data are not collected centrally about the numbers treated for cannabis-related mental illness in primary care.

*Finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids: activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS-commissioned activity in the independent sector 2004-05 to 2008-09 under consultant mental health specialties*

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total all ages | 752 | 786 | 616 | 579 | 519 |
| Aged 18 years or over | 708 | 745 | 570 | 553 | 499 |
| Aged under 18 years | 44 | 41 | 32 | 26 | 19 |
| Age not known | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 1 |

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

## Care Homes: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to Local Authority Circular (2001)10 on charges for residential accommodation, under what circumstances a local authority is permitted to terminate its contract with the care provider for the 12-week property disregard; and whether the disregard continues to qualify for an individual who sells their home before the end of the 12-week period. [307697]

**Phil Hope:** Local authorities have a duty to provide residential care for people who are assessed as needing such care but are unable to pay for it. Under regulation 20 of the National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 1992, no one shall be assessed as being unable to pay for their own residential care if their capital exceeds £23,000. It is for each local authority to decide whether it has a duty to provide care for an individual, taking all the available information into account and taking its own legal advice where appropriate.

For up to 12 weeks from the date a person is provided with local authority supported permanent residential care for the first time, the value of the dwelling the person would otherwise normally occupy as their only or main residence is disregarded from the financial assessment. If a person sells their home within the 12-week period, the disregard ceases to have effect from the date of the sale.

If the resident has more than £23,000 in capital, including the money from the sale of their main or only residence, they will be assessed as being able to pay and should contract for their own residential care. If the resident has less than £23,000, the local authority contract should continue and the money from the sale will be taken into account in the financial assessment for charging purposes.

## Departmental Art Works

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on art works in the last 12 months. [306442]

**Phil Hope:** Works of art displayed in the Department are from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions. The most recent details of acquisitions made by the GAC were published on 5 October 2009 and are available on the GAC website:

- www.gac.culture.gov.uk/information/publications.asp

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff of his Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306715]

**Phil Hope:** The numbers of displaced staff in the Department on the requested dates are presented in he following table.

| *Month* | *Number of displaced staff* |
|---|---|
| January 2009 | 16 |
| April 2009 | 23 |
| July 2009 | 12 |
| October 2009 | 14 |

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments NHS Blood and Transplant has made to Fishburn Hedges in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305167]

**Gillian Merron:** NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) has paid £94,458.18 to Fishburn Hedges over the past 12 months for a project manager recruited through that company. The project manager has developed and manages NHSBT's organ donation public awareness campaign, which was launched in November 2009, and which is due to run until spring 2010. A copy of the job description for this post has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments the NHS Information Centre has made to Grayling Political Strategy in each of the last three years; for what purposes such payments were made; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments were made. [305252]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Payments were made to perform a range of duties relating to media and communications services, including relations with trade and general media, events, press work and general public affairs advice:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 2,796.50 |
| 2008-09 | 68,776.95 |
| 2009-10 | 32,086.10 |

The NHS Information Centre will liaise with the Department's sponsor to ensure the relevant contracts are placed in the Library.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the (i) subject and (ii) location of each away day was. [illegible]

**Phil Hope:** The Department is strongly committed to developing its staff and equipping them with the skills, knowledge and expertise they need to carry out their work. Away days make a significant contribution to such development.

Away days are typically arranged by individual teams in the Department and involve activities such as work planning, skills development and strategic thinking. No central records of these events are kept and extracting the necessary data from local sources would entail contacting approximately 200 teams and asking them to search for and retrieve the necessary information.

To collect this information task in the core Department would incur disproportionate costs.

The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency has arranged the following away days in the last 12 months:

| *Date* | *Subject* | *Location* | *Spend (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 28 January 2009 | Corporate Services team development | Birmingham | 1,071.52 |
| 11 February 2009 | Procurement Enablement team development | Hinckley | 5,499.51 |
| 15 April 2009 | Change Management Group team development | Warwick University | 608.16 |
| 30 April 2009 | Sourcing staff development | Solihull | 819.79 |
| 17 August 2009 | Centre for Evidence-based Purchasing | Eynsham Hall | 2,552.66 |
| | | Total | 10,551.64 |

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has arranged the following away days in the last 12 months:

| *Division* | *Date* | *Subject* | *Location* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Licensing | 8 January 2009 | Licensing Division Managers SDI teambuilding and communication improvement event | Missenden Abbey Conference Centre, Buckinghamshire | 9,031.26 |

| *Division* | *Date* | *Subject* | *Location* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IE and S | 19 January 2009 | GLP/GCP/PV Away Day | Node Conference Centre, Hertfordshire | 2,389.60 |
| Devices Medical | 6 February 2009 | Clinical Targets, Business Planning, Value for money and efficiency (Managers' Away Day) | The Royal Horseguards, Whitehall, London | 588.80 |
| Devices Medical | 6 February 2009 | Away Day | Penn, Buckinghamshire | 0.00 |
| Executive Board | 24 February 2009 | Executive Board Away Day | Springs Hotel, Wallingford, Oxfordshire | 5,243.95 |
| Policy | 9 March 2009 | Training/development day on diversity | Windrush Exhibition, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth, London | 649.75 |
| VRMM | 13 March 2009 | SDI teambuilding event/ VRMM Information for Public Health Group Away day | Brit Oval, Kennington, London | 6,285.13 |
| Directorate | 26 March 2009 | Directorate Away Day/ Belbin team roles and work planning | Institute of Directors, Pall Mall, London | 834.00 |
| Device Technology and Safety | 23 April 2009 | Away Day | Athenaeum Hotel, Piccadilly, London | 868.50 |
| Human Resources | 6 May 2009 | FIRO-B teambuilding event | Wallacespace, Covent Garden, London | 2,900.00 |
| Licensing | 8 May 2009 | ECSSM Away Day/Belbin team roles | Brit Oval, Kennington, London | 1,863.58 |
| VRMM | 15 June 2009 | VRMM Management Away day | London Marriott Hotel County Hall, Westminster Bridge Road, London | 1,717.39 |
| Communications | 26 June 2009 | CCM—Strategy day | Wallacespace, Covent Garden, London | 3,198.50 |
| IE and S | 17 August 2009 | Leadership Team Awayday | Regency Hotel, South Kensington, 100 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5AG | 448.00 |
| VRMM | 10 September 2009 | VRMM Therapeutic Review Group Away day | Brit Oval, Kennington, London | 1,715.23 |
| Device Technology and Safety | 17 September 2009 | Away Day | Athenaeum Hotel, Piccadilly, London | 810.00 |
| Communications | 25 September 2009 | Information Centre Away Day | Chelsea Physic Garden, Central London | 1,154.00 |
| Policy | 27 October 2009 | Training/development day | Jodrell Laboratory, Kew Gardens, London | 65.00 |
| Policy | 3 November 2009 | Policy Skills and Business Planning | Riverside Park Plaza, Albert Embankment, London | 1,419.00 |
| IE and S | 17 November 2009 | Away Day | Hitchin Priory, Hertfordshire | 2,119.37 |
| IE and S | 25 November 2009 | Team Building Event | The Belfry, Birmingham | 2,743.44 |
| VRMM | 8 December 2009 | VRMM Signal Management Group Away day | The Raceway, Docklands, London | 2,700.00 |
| Comms | 15 December 2009 | Senior Manager Away day | Brighton | 2,805.00 |
| | | | Total | 52,449.50 |

## Dietetics: Training

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many four year dietetics degrees were funded by his Department in each of the last five years. [307077]

**Ann Keen:** The number of training places on four year dietetics degree courses which were commissioned by the strategic health authorities in the last five years are shown in the following table.

*Training places commissioned*

| *Academic year* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004/05 | 306 |
| 2005/06 | 306 |
| 2006/07 | 413 |
| 2007/08 | 384 |
| 2008/09 | 388 |

*Source:*
Non-Medical Education Training Quarter 4 Monitoring Returns

## Dieticians: Vacancies

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacancies for registered dieticians at band 5 were advertised by NHS trusts in each of the last 10 years. [304165]

**Ann Keen:** It is not possible to identify band 5 dieticians from the NHS Vacancy Survey. The following table gives the total number of vacancies for the whole dietetic speciality for 2007, 2008 and 2009. It is not possible to identify this speciality for earlier years.

| *England* | *Total vacancy numbers* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 30 |
| 2008 | 12 |
| 2009 | 186 |

## Food Standards Agency: Conferences

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Food Standards Agency's buildings attended by civil servants in that Agency there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307460]

**Gillian Merron:** The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has spent approximately £581,117.74 on conference and away days since 2004-05.

Away days and conference attendance are not accounted for separately in the FSA, and to provide this breakdown would incur disproportionate cost as the information is not held centrally.

## Health Education: Internet

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to his Department was of developing the NHS Drinks Counter application for the iPhone. [307254]

**Gillian Merron:** NHS Choices developed the iPhone drinks tracker application as part of a package of interactive tools that also included a universal mobile phone tool. The total cost for the universal mobile phone and iPhone applications was £10,000.

Between launch on 1 December and 9 December the iPhone application has been downloaded by over 35,000 individuals and has remained in the top 10 most popular iPhone applications on iTunes. It is number one in the health and fitness category.

## Hospital Beds: Greater London

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many intensive care beds are available at each London acute hospital; and what recent estimate he has made of their rate of occupancy. [305082]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Tables showing the requested information have been placed in the Library. Table 1 lists the latest published data for critical and intensive care bed occupancy at trust and strategic health authority level for London. Table 2 lists the latest published data for adult critical care bed availability for London, which is more recent than the data for bed occupancy and availability in table 1.

## Hospital Wards: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* male-only wards, *(b)* female-only wards, *(c)* mixed sex wards and *(d)* wards divided by partition into sexes there are in each hospital in Leeds. [306579]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not collected centrally. Information on the different types of ward in each hospital in Leeds may be obtained from local national health service organisations in the Leeds area.

## Kidney Dialysis: Yorkshire and the Humber

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals in *(a)* West Yorkshire and *(b)* Leeds provide kidney dialysis treatment. [306995]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not collected centrally. Information on hospitals that provide kidney dialysis treatment is collected by the UK Renal Registry. The annual reports containing analysis of data from 1997 to 2008 can be found on the Renal Registry's website:

www.renalreg.com/Reports/reports.html

## Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much capital spending his Department has made in Leeds West constituency in the last three years; [306940]

(2) how much capital spending his Department has made in the Leeds city area in the last three years. [306941]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is not available in the format requested. Information is available at national health service organisation level. The following table shows the charge against the capital resource limit for the years shown for the NHS organisations in Leeds.

*£000*

| *Name* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust | 43,853 | 46,852 | 43,523 |
| Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust | 1,352 | 268 | n/a |
| Leeds Primary Care Trust | 829 | 2,511 | 4,245 |

*Notes:*

The charge against the capital resource limit is calculated as follows:

(a) Gross capital expenditure in accruals terms for the period;

(b) Less the net book value of assets disposed of;

(c) Plus any loss on disposal of donated assets;

(d) Less capital grants received; and

(e) Less donations.

The Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust was authorised as a foundation trust on 1 August 2007. The figure for 2007-08 is consequently for the part of the year that the organisation was a NHS Trust. The 2006-07 figure is for the Leeds Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust (as it was known prior to obtaining foundation trust status). The Department does not collect data from foundation trusts, so there is no figure for 2008-09.

*Source:*

Audited summarisation schedules.

## Mentally Ill: Homicide

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the cost of conducting a mental health homicide investigation. [307265]

**Phil Hope:** Strategic health authorities commission independent investigations into adverse events in mental health services, including homicides committed by mental health service users. The Department does not collect routine information or cost data on such local investigations, and nor has there been a national estimate of their cost.

### NHS Connecting for Health: Consultants

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Connecting for Health spent on each of its consultancies in each financial year since 2003-04. [304242]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Comprehensive information is not available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### NHS: Essex

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he was first informed of the Care Quality Commission's concerns about the *(a)* Basildon and Thurrock NHS Foundation Trust and *(b)* Colchester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. [303860]

**Andy Burnham:** The Department was informed by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on 13 October that it would issue Basildon and Thurrock NHS Foundation Trust with a warning notice following a healthcare associated infection inspection by CQC on 8 October. CQC continued discussions with the trust, the primary care trust and Monitor regarding wider concerns about the trust, including persistently high mortality rates and issues relating to the trust's accident and emergency department. Subsequently, the Commission formally invited Monitor to use its powers of intervention to address the failings identified. CQC informed the Department on 25 November that it had invited Monitor to intervene at the trust.

The CQC did not contact the Department regarding Colchester NHS Foundation Trust. The intervention at Colchester has been taken by Monitor.

### NHS: Information and Communications Technology

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for his determination that the NHS National programme for IT is not essential; and when his Department was first informed of this evidence. [307059]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The national programme for information technology in the national health service is a key part of delivering modern, safe, joined-up healthcare, without which the NHS could not now function. It is always right to look for efficiencies and value for money on all major projects.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his contribution of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 21, what estimate he has made of the proposed £500 million efficiency saving for the National programme for IT will be derived from *(a)* the Local Service Provider Detailed Care Record Service managed by BT for London and the South of England, *(b)* the Local Service Provider Detailed Care Record Service managed by CSC for the North, Midlands and East of England, *(c)* Choose and Book, *(d)* the Electronic Prescription Service, *(e)* the Summary Care Record, *(f)* the Additional Supply Capacity and Capability Framework, *(g)* GP Systems of Choice, *(h)* GP2GP transfer, *(i)* HealthSpace and *(j)* the interoperability toolkit. [307208]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** These decisions remain to be taken. They will depend partly on the outcome of discussions with suppliers about the potential for reductions to the scope of the systems. We will also look carefully at the savings that can be made from the costs of managing delivery of the programme.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the National programme for IT in the NHS: Project Progress Report of 16 May 2008, how much of the National programme for IT £3.6 billion budget for local costs has been spent in each local service provider region; and whether he plans to amend the budget for the programme in the next 12 months. [307277]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Expenditure information is not available in the form requested. The figure of £3,586 million for local costs is an estimate that was made by the National Audit Office (NAO) in their report The National programme for IT in the NHS : Progress since 2006'. The NAO did not provide an estimate of the costs incurred by individual local service providers.

### NHS: Ministers of Religion

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding is available for the support and recruitment of multi-faith chaplains in hospitals in 2009-10. [306924]

**Ann Keen:** National health service trusts are responsible for delivering religious and spiritual care in a way that meets the diverse needs of their patients. We are committed to the principle of ensuring that patients and staff in the NHS have access to the spiritual care that they want, whatever faith or belief system they follow. The Department recognises the important role played by faith communities in supporting the NHS and has made available a total of £186,000 from central funding to support a multi-faith based approach to chaplaincy.

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on support for multi-faith chaplaincy in hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [307001]

**Ann Keen:** The Department recognises that we live in a diverse society and is committed to responding sensitively and appropriately to the needs of patients and staff of diverse backgrounds, including faith communities. All national health service organisations must take account of the religious, cultural and dietary requirements of the multi-cultural and spiritually diverse communities they serve. The delivery of multi-faith chaplaincy in hospitals is a matter for local determination. However, we expect NHS trusts to follow the guidance "NHS Chaplaincy: Meeting the Religious and Spiritual Needs of Patients and Staff (November 2003)", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library.

### Pharmacy: Health Services

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on proposals to allow general practitioners to sell over-the-counter medicine. [306482]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** None.

### Social Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to Annex B, footnote 4 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill; for what reasons data from West Berkshire was used; and whether his Department holds equivalent data for other local authorities. [304806]

**Phil Hope:** The model referred to in paragraphs 5.12, 5.13 and Annex B of the impact assessment is still under development. For this reason, its output has not been incorporated into any of the figures reported in the impact assessment. The model will continue to be updated and refined as more information becomes available.

The experience of West Berkshire was used because its clients have been assessed as having high needs under "Fair Access to Care Services". The Department does not hold equivalent data for other councils.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 3.1 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, in what ways he expects the policy to encourage better working between the health and social care systems. [304811]

**Phil Hope:** The Personal Care at Home Bill is a step towards setting up a new national care service. Our Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", which has already been placed in the Library, set out our vision for a national care service that promotes better joined-up working between health, housing and social care services.

The consultation on the Green Paper closed on November 13, 2009 and we will publish a White Paper early in 2010. Also feeding into the White Paper will be the work of the ministerial group on integration of health and social care services, which has met four times with a purpose of identifying what has worked well in different parts of the country, as well as what the evidence tells us, to help push forward joined-up working.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 7.3 of the Impact Assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, whether local authorities with significant rural populations would receive a proportionate uplift in funding if the Personal Care at Home Bill were enacted; if he will place in the Library a copy of the outcomes of the screening equality impact assessment; and if he will publish the full equality impact assessment before the end of December 2009. [304857]

**Phil Hope:** Questions on both funding formulae for councils and equality are included in the current consultation and comments are invited. The consultation will close on 23 February 2010 and a response to the document will be published subsequently. The equality impact assessment screening template has been published alongside the consultation document. Both documents are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_109139

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to Tables 1 and 2 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, from which paragraphs of the report by the Personal Social Services Research Unit the figures were taken; and which figures in the impact assessment were taken from modelling which has not yet been published. [306479]

**Phil Hope:** Table 1 of the Impact Assessment is derived from the English Longitudinal Study of Aging. For further detail of how the figures in table 1 were produced, I refer the hon. Member to the replies I gave to him on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 290W, 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 495W, and 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 762W.

The figures for older people in table 2 of the Impact Assessment are derived from the figures in table 1 and the output of Personal Social Services Research Unit's (PSSRU) micro-simulation model for older people. The specific output from the model used to produce the figures in table 2 is not included in the PSSRU technical report and has not otherwise been published.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to him on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 763W for detail on the derivation of the numbers of residential care and informal care switchers. The simple model used to determine the flows into and out of residential care has not been published. The logistic regression model used to estimate the number of informal care switchers is explained in the reply I gave to the hon. Member on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 290W.

The estimate of 110,000 younger adults eligible for free personal care at home is based principally on the Referrals, Assessments and Packages of care (RAP) data from councils for 2007-08[1].

Fair Access To Care Services (FACS) guidance on eligibility for local authorities establishes four levels of eligibility for services. These are critical, substantial, moderate and low, with critical representing the highest level of social care need.

The RAP data shows 82,000 younger users of local authority home care and 35,000 younger users of direct payments on 31 March 2008—out of 395,000 younger recipients of community-based services. It is not known what proportion of the 117,000 who receive personal care and are in the critical need group, but it is expected that they would be the majority.

Therefore, for the purposes of the impact assessment, it is assumed that there could be some 100,000 younger adult local authority funded users receiving personal care in the critical category. It is likely that most of them receive their care free, as their incomes are generally low. It has therefore been assumed that 90 per cent., already receive free personal care at home and that 10 per cent., make a means-tested contribution towards the cost.

Little is known about the number of younger adults who currently fund their own care at home. It has been assumed that approximately a further 10,000 younger adults may be brought under state funding following the introduction of the Personal Care at Home Bill.

No specific estimate of a margin of error has been made. However, the figures have been rounded to the nearest 10,000 to reflect the uncertainty. The figure of 110,000 should therefore be treated as an estimate.

For information on the derivation of the estimated additional administration costs, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 765W.

[1] The RAP data for 2007-08 can be found at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/adult-social-care-information/community-care-statistics-2007-2008:-referrals-assessments-and-packages-of-care-for-adults-england-provisional-council-data

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the regulatory impact assessment for the Personal Care Bill assumes that 14,815 people per month are to be given access to reablement. [307687]

**Phil Hope:** A flow of 14,815 per month is derived from the modelling assumptions listed in Annex B of the impact assessment. However, since we do not know for certain what proportion of people already benefit from re-ablement, for the purposes of the impact assessment we have assumed that 130,000 people will receive re-ablement over the course of a year. In addition, since we have not formally incorporated the anticipated benefits of re-ablement services in the impact assessment's headline figures, we believe we have been conservative about the number of people that may actually receive re-ablement.

The model referred to in paragraphs 5.12, 5.13 and Annex B of the impact assessment is still under development. For this reason, its output has not been incorporated into any of the figures reported in the impact assessment. The model will continue to be updated and refined as more information becomes available.

We cannot reasonably make these extrapolations because of the levels of uncertainty. Such uncertainties include the unknown detail of any future national care service and the unknown future economic climate.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 166W, on social services, (1) if he will extrapolate the cost in each year to 2030 to the Exchequer of free personal care on the basis that there are no uncertainties and the assumptions of the regulatory impact assessment remains applicable in each year; [307688]

(2) what areas of uncertainty the Department has identified; and whether each one is likely to result in *(a)* increased or *(b)* decreased costs; [307689]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 497W, on social services, what the figure for personal care funded from the public purse in *(a)* 2015, *(b)* 2020, *(c)* 2025 and *(d)* 2030 for each year is if the assumptions of the impact assessment of the Personal Care at Home Bill are applied regardless of uncertainty. [307725]

**Phil Hope:** We cannot reasonably make these extrapolations because of the levels of uncertainty. Such uncertainties include the unknown detail of any future National Care Service and the unknown future economic climate.

It is not possible to reasonably extrapolate what effects such uncertainties may have on costs at the present time.

### Swine Flu: Vaccination

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1170-1W, on influenza: Herefordshire, how many H1N1 influenza vaccines were delivered (1) to Herefordshire by *(a)* the end of November 2009 and *(b)* the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [307281]

(2) into his Department's central warehouse by *(a)* the end of November 2009 and *(b)* the latest date for which figures are available; how many of the H1N1 influenza vaccines were distributed to locations nationwide; and if he will make a statement. [307282]

**Gillian Merron:** 31,000 doses (30,000 Pandemrix and 1,000 Celvapan) of H1N1 influenza vaccine had been delivered to Herefordshire by the end of November 2009. As at 9 December 2009, 38,500 doses (37,500 Pandemrix and 1,000 Celvapan) had been delivered to Herefordshire.

16.3 million doses (14 million Pandemrix and 2.3 million Celvapan) of H1N1 influenza vaccines were delivered into the Department's central warehouse by the end of November 2009. As at 9 December 2009, 19.2 million doses (16.1 million Pandemrix and 3.1 million Celvapan) had been delivered into the Department's central warehouse. At midday on 9 December 2009, 13.2 million doses (12.6 million Pandemrix and 0.6 million Celvapan) of H1N1 influenza vaccines had been distributed to locations nationwide.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the number of health service staff eligible for the H1N1 influenza vaccine; and how many health service staff have received the H1N1 influenza vaccine to date. [307283]

**Gillian Merron:** The estimated number of frontline national health service health care workers involved in direct patient care in England eligible for H1N1 swine flu vaccination is about one million.

By week ending 6 December 2009, an estimated 300,000. NHS frontline health care workers involved in direct patient care had received H1N1 vaccine.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to respond to Question 300313, on commissioning of elective health service treatments, tabled on 18 November for answer on 25 November 2009. [307608]

**Gillian Merron:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1049W.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Biofuels

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the average annual allocation of renewables obligation certificates to each of the biomass power stations which are under construction. [307627]

**Joan Ruddock:** The monetary value of ROCs is dependent on the buy out price and recycle value. However, the actual amount a generator sells a ROC for is subject to commercial negotiation between a generator and supplier. The buy out price for each ROC per MWh is announced in February prior to the obligation period it applies to and the recycle value is determined by the compliance level for that obligation period.

Generators will receive ROCs for each MWh of eligible renewable electricity generated, once they are accredited, depending on the technology type and fuel used. Details can be found on the RO website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/policy/renew_obs/renew_obs.aspx

### Biofuels: Power Stations

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value was of the renewables obligation certificate allocated to each biomass power station in operation in 2009-10. [307628]

**Joan Ruddock:** The 2009-10 obligation period finishes on 31 March 2010. Records for the number of renewables obligation certificates issued to biomass power stations can be found on the Renewable and CHP Register at:

https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/Public/ReportManager.aspx?ReportVisibility=1&ReportCategory=0

From 1 April 2009 banding of renewable technologies was introduced. As a result of this, dedicated biomass stations using regular biomass will receive 1.5 ROCs per MWh, while those using energy crops will receive two ROCs per MWh.

The monetary value of ROCs is dependent on the buy out price and the recycle value. However, the actual amount a generator sells a ROC for is subject to commercial negotiation between a generator and supplier. The buy out price for each ROC per MWh issued in 2009-10 is £37.19. The recycle value will be determined by the compliance level for the 2009-10 obligation period.

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the monetary value of the average annual allocation of renewables obligation certificates to each biomass power station in operation. [307629]

**Joan Ruddock:** The 2009-10 obligation period finishes on 31 March 2010. Records for the number of renewables obligation certificates issued to Biomass power stations can be found on the renewable and CHP Register at:

https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/Public/ReportManager.aspx?ReportVisibility=1&ReportCategory=0

From 1 April 2009 banding of renewable technologies was introduced. As a result of this dedicated biomass stations using regular biomass will receive 1.5 ROCs per MWh while those using energy crops will receive 2 ROCs per MWh.

The monetary value of ROCs is dependent on the buy out price and recycle value. However, the actual amount a generator sells a ROC for is subject to commercial negotiation between a generator and supplier.

The buy out price for ROCs per MWh and the recycle value per ROC in the current and preceding obligation periods can be found in the following table.

| *Obligation period* | *Buyout price per MWh (£)* | *Recycle Value per ROC presented (£)* |
|---|---:|---:|
| 2002-03 | 30.00 | [1]15.94 |
| | | [2]23.55 |
| 2003-04 | 30.51 | [1]22.92 |
| | | [2]23.70 |
| 2004-05 | 31.59 | [1]13.66 |
| | | [2]19.99 |
| 2005-06 | 32.33 | 10.21 |
| 2006-07 | 33.24 | 16.04 |
| 2007-08 | 34.30 | 18.65 |
| 2008-09 | 35.76 | 18.54 |
| 2009-10 | 37.19 | [3]— |

[1] England and Wales
[2] Scotland
[3] Current Obligation Period

### Capita

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings *(a)* each Minister and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessors have had with Capita Group plc on the administration of the miners' compensation schemes since the inception of those schemes. [303417]

**Mr. Kidney:** Capita became the Department's claims handling contractor for the Coal Health Compensation schemes in 2004 following their acquisition of the contract from another supplier. Capita secured the current contract for a further period following a competitive process and that contract commenced in August 2006. The current contract is due to end on 30 July 2011.

Ministers have not been directly involved in operational meetings with Capita but are kept up dated on progress.

At official level the core governance arrangements for managing the contract and Capita's role are by monthly contract and scheme management meetings chaired by the Head of the Coal Liabilities Unit (CLU) in DECC. In addition a range of operational and contract compliance meetings are also held regularly between CLU officials and Capita representatives.

In addition the High Court Judges overseeing the Coal Health Compensation schemes have taken a direct interest in all aspects of the administrative handling of the claims.

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 669W, on industrial diseases: compensation, on which occasions Capita Group plc has not received one hundred per cent. of the Service Level Agreement payments which could have been paid to it; and what the reasons were in each case; [303418]

(2) with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 671W, on industrial diseases: compensation, who has responsibility for reviewing Capita's performance; which contractual terms Capita has *(a)* met and *(b)* not met; how frequently Capita's performance is assessed; and what performance measures are used in such assessments. [303420]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Coal Liabilities Unit (CLU) within DECC has the responsibility for reviewing Capita's performance, with most of the Service Level Agreements (SLA) also audited by our external auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

In addition to the SLA regime, the Department's contract with Capita also provided milestone payments linked to claim settlement performance. For the Vibration White Finger Scheme, Capita earned 42.5 per cent. of the bonus available over three milestones. For the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Scheme, Capita have to date achieved 100 per cent. of the bonus available from two of the three milestones.

The following table sets out Capita's performance under the SLA regime, which commenced in August 2006. The SLA measures listed are those that have been utilised over the contract up to February 2009.

Since February 2009, the arrangements have changed and whilst all criteria continue to be measured and monitored, the financial incentive is only in place for the COPD quality measure.

| SLA | Description | SLA Performance (%) | SLA Incentive (%) Payment | Audited by PwC | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| COPD Quality | Representatives of Capita's Technical Team and PwC's Audit Team use a comprehensive scoring check list to verify the information Capita adjusters have used, on a random sample of claims. If an error is identified, whether it affects the final offer value or not, or whether the error results in a potential overpayment or underpayment, the SLA score is reduced. | 97 | 91 | Audited on a quarterly basis | Capita's actual SLA performance was over 97% but due to the effect of a quality sliding scale (NB. SLAs have different sliding scales), any decrease in performance accelerates the loss of payments achieved, so Capita obtained 91% of the SLA incentive payment. The reason why they achieved 97% rather than 100% performance is because Capita's Technical Team and PwC identified errors in the information. |
| VWF Quality | As with COPD Quality (above), the Capita Technical Team and PwC Audit Team use a comprehensive scoring check list to verify the information Capita adjusters have used on a claim. | 99.5 | 100 | Audited on a quarterly basis | Capita achieved 99.5% for performance, but due to the sliding scale, they obtained 100% of the incentive payments. |
| COPD and VWF Disputes | This SLA measures Capita's handling of COPD and VWF disputes within the timescales stated in the relevant Claims Handling Agreement. | 99 | 97 | Audited on a six monthly basis | Capita achieved over 99% for performance, but obtained 97% of the incentive payments. The slight drop in performance from 100% to 99% was because Capita did not deal with all disputes within the required timescale. |
| VWF Stalled Claims | This SLA measures Capita's handling of the Stalled Claims process: Stage 1 - trigger for stalled claims process Stage 2 - no substantive response received Stage 3 - No correspondence received since Stage 1 and 2 | 65 | 67 | Audited on a six monthly basis | Capita's systems could not automatically report the 3 different stages of the stalled claims process with the additional complexities brought about by the exceptions applying to cohorts such as Grant of Probate and DWP Schedule, etc. As such, this SLA is potentially under-reported. |

| SLA | Description | SLA Performance (%) | SLA Incentive (%) Payment | Audited by PwC | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Keystage Data Accuracy | This SLA measures the accuracy of the indicators on Capita's IT system which shows where the claim is in the claims process (i.e. the key stage). It does not measure any other aspect of data accuracy | 90 | 71 | Audited on a quarterly basis | Capita achieved over 90% for performance, but due to the sliding scale, obtained 71% of the incentive payments. The main reason why Capita achieved 90% rather than 100% performance is because the PwC auditors took their sample from all the claims including the very oldest claims which had not always been updated with new key stage indicators on the system. |
| Scan Post Received | This SLA measures the timescale that post received by Capita is electronically scanned onto their document management system. | 100 | 100 | Audited on a six monthly basis | No drop in performance. All post was scanned within the 3 days SLA timescale. |
| Complaints | This SLA measures the volume of complaints received by Capita (or expression of dissatisfaction in some way, or chasing for a response from Capita) as a percentage of the total volume of correspondence received by Capita in the same period. | 1.2 of correspondence | 55 | Audited on a six monthly basis | An average of 1.2% of correspondence Capita received were classified as complaints. Many of the complaints were chasing letters (e.g. what is happening with the claim or when will we get a response) generated automatically on a regular basis by solicitors IT systems. Such correspondence did not take into account issues in the Court process that delayed the progression of claims. On the sliding scale, Capita achieved 55% of the incentive payments. For Capita to have been able to achieve 100% for this SLA, there would have to be less than 0.5% of the correspondence received as complaints. |
| Management Information Reports | This SLA measures the timescale to produce high priority and medium priority reports for the Department. | 100 | 100 | Not audited by PwC as this was monitored by the Department when reports were requested. | No drop in performance. The contract defined different timescales for different priority reports. |

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 669W, on industrial diseases: compensation, whether the terms of the contract between his Department and Capita Group plc allow his Department to levy fines on Capita Group plc. [303419]

**Mr. Kidney:** The contract is designed to incentivise Capita to perform to a high standard, especially in terms of the quality and accuracy of claim offers and the timely settlement of claims. While the contract does not specifically mention the levying of fines, the comprehensive Service Level Agreement performance regime contained within the contract allows Capita to achieve a range of incentive and bonus payments. If Capita do not meet the targets, they do not earn the full amount available.

In addition to the incentive and bonus payments structure, Capita are required to reimburse the Department for not meeting the required timescale for payments to claimants which attract judgement debt rate of interest (JDRI).

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 671W, on industrial diseases: compensation, what data were taken into account in his Department's value for money assessment of the contract with Capita Group plc. [303421]

**Mr. Kidney:** In the context of the most recent retender of the Department's claims handling contract in 2005-2006, the value for money (VFM) assessment was made on both financial and non-financial measures. Data was taken from Capita's bid, references with other Government Departments and the Department's knowledge of the incumbent service provider and the associated contractual arrangements.

The financial assessment represented 40 per cent. within the scoring system. The non-financial assessment represented the remaining 60 per cent. as set out in my reply to my right hon. Friend on 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 671W and 672W.

### Carbon Emissions: Conferences

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 457W, on departmental conferences, how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials from his Department attended the EU-China Near Zero Emissions Coal Initiative phase I Final Conference. [303508]

**Mr. Kidney:** Three DECC officials attended the China-EU NZEC Phase I Conference in Beijing on 28-29 October 2009. No Ministers or special advisers attended. The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change delivered a pre-recorded video message congratulating all those involved in NZEC and setting out his views more broadly on CCS internationally at:

http://www.actoncopenhagen.decc.gov.uk/en/global-action1/asia/china/nzec-meets-in-beijing

### Carbon Emissions: Housing

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department plans to spend on the Social Housing Energy Saving Programme in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12, *(d)* 2012-13 and *(e)* 2013-14; and what estimate he has made of the (i) proportion of such expenditure to be incurred in England, (ii) the carbon savings to be achieved, (iii) the number of properties affected and (iv) the number of jobs created from such expenditure in each year. [300476]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: The information is as follows:

*(a)* 2009-10—£54.5 million of funding has already been allocated

(i) 100 per cent. of the funding is allocated to social housing providers in England.

(ii) 52,000 tonnes estimated carbon saving

(iii) 65,000 homes

(iv) 1,300 Jobs

*(b)* 2010-11—£29.3 million of funding has already been allocated

(i) 100 per cent. is allocated social housing providers in England

(ii) 34,400 tonnes estimated carbon saving

(iii) 43,000 homes

(iv) 900 Jobs

(*c*, *d* and *e*) Currently no funding has been allocated to the programme post 2011.

### Climate Change: Publicity

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department had spent on the Act on CO2 Campaign on the latest date for which figures are available. [304032]

**Mr. Kidney:** The invoiced cost of the ACT ON C02 campaign from September 2008 to 10 December 2009 is £15 million. This includes all fees, and covers production, media, digital activity, research, events and other campaign-related spend.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on television advertising for the Act on CO2 Campaign to date. [304037]

**Joan Ruddock:** From April 2009 to December 2009, the Department for Energy and Climate Change is expected to spend approximately £2.2 million (exclusive of VAT) on TV advertising media space.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the Act on CO2 Campaign has spent on promotion on *(a)* Facebook and *(b)* other social networking websites since its establishment. [304038]

**Mr. Kidney:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* Expenditure for promotion (advertising) on Facebook to date is £10,750 as part of the first phase of the ACT ON CO2 campaign.

*(b)* No expenditure for promotion on other exclusively social networking sites has occurred to date.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the Act on CO2 advice line for advice on saving money has cost since its inception. [304052]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Act on $CO_2$ Advice Line is part of a comprehensive service provided by Energy Saving Trust's network of advice centres. This service not only covers the provision of telephone advice on energy and water saving, waste minimisation and domestic microgeneration but also incorporates proactive outreach, support for local authorities and communities, and capacity building with local energy efficiency related trades. The network was rolled out during 2008-09 and has been fully operational during 2009-10. The disaggregated cost of the advice line to date is approximately £5.9 million.

### Coal Authority: Information and Communications Technology

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 459-60W, on departmental ICT, what the terms of reference of the Coal Authority's Inferis IT project are. [307197]

**Mr. Kidney:** In my answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 131W, I advised that a copy of the invitation to tender in respect of the Coal Authority's Inferis IT project was being placed in the Libraries of the House. I refer the hon. Member for Wealden to that document, in particular sections 5 (Background), 6 (Objectives and Aspirations) and 7 (Scope of Requirements).

### Departmental Advertising

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 453-55W, on departmental advertising, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the advertisements his Department placed in *(a) What's on TV* magazine and *(b) Take a Break* magazine. [303504]

**Mr. Kidney:** We do not keep hard copies of publications. I have sent examples of the Act on $CO_2$ advertisements in *What's on TV* and *Take a Break* to the hon. Member.

### Departmental Billing

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307968]

**Mr. Kidney:** The following table lists the number of invoices submitted and the proportion paid within 10 days.

| *Month* | *Number of invoices submitted* | *Proportion paid within 10 days (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | |
| November | 528 | 73 |
| December | 647 | 88 |
| *2009* | | |
| January | 672 | 98 |
| February | 575 | 99 |
| March | 730 | 97 |
| April | 617 | 98 |
| May | 746 | 97 |
| June | 652 | 98 |
| July | 877 | 97 |
| August | 527 | 94 |
| September | 710 | 85 |
| October | 750 | 93 |
| November | 802 | 92 |

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what redesigns of websites operated by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306208]

**Mr. Kidney:** Ofgem's corporate website has not been redesigned since June 27, 2007. However, a range of new features have been added to increase accessibility and usability, to meet a number of new standards for websites operated by Government Departments applicable from 1 April 2009 and to reflect the recent restructuring of Ofgem. There has been no cost to the public purse as Ofgem recovers costs from license fee payers.

### Departmental Travel

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on travel for Ministers undertaken by *(a)* car, *(b)* train, *(c)* air and *(d)* other means since its establishment. [303404]

**Mr. Kidney:** This information could only be provided at disproportional cost.

### Departmental Working Hours

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of staff of his Department and its non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301323]

**Joan Ruddock:** DECC operates a flexible working policy so that all staff are able to request to work flexibly including part-time and job-share if they wish, subject to business need and with the prior approval of their manager. The guidance for staff is available on the HR intranet.

Records are not held centrally of all the flexible working patterns of staff. DECC currently has 6 per cent. (59) staff working on a part-time basis.

DECC has four non-departmental public bodies, all staff are able to request to work flexibly but again records are not held centrally of all the flexible working patterns Coal Authority—9 per cent. (16) work part-time; Nuclear Decommissioning Authority—5.3 per cent (19) work part-time; Civil Nuclear Constabulary—16 per cent. (41) work part time, all staff work flexibly. Committee on Climate Change all staff (30) work full-time; three staff work flexibly.

### Energy: Disconnections

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many *(a)* pre-payment meter and *(b)* billed energy customers have been disconnected by their supplier in each quarter in the last three years; [304493]

(2) how many energy customers were disconnected in error by their provider in each quarter of the last three years; [304494]

(3) how long on average energy customers disconnected by their provider were without a connection in each quarter of the last three years; [304495]

**Mr. Kidney:** Ofgem collect figures on the number of gas and electricity customers disconnected due to debt, and the average time until reconnection. Ofgem also publish the proportion of disconnections within each quarter that were reconnected within the same quarter, for each of the main six domestic energy providers. This information is available at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Monitoring/SoObMonitor/Pages/SocObMonitor.aspx

Figures for the number of disconnections made in error and figures by payment method are not available.

I will be depositing tables showing the number of household disconnections due to debt, and the proportion of disconnections reconnected within the same quarter by the main six energy suppliers in the Libraries in the House.

## Energy: Meters

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much on average a household in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK with a pre-payment meter paid for (i) electricity and (ii) gas in each of the last three years. [303645]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department's latest estimates for the average annual domestic energy bills and provisional estimates for the year to 2009 and are published in Quarterly Energy Prices, published in September 2009. Figures are not available at constituency or local authority level.

For an average consumer using 18,000 kWh of gas per year and paying their bills by pre-payment meter, the average bill in the North East for gas was £593 in 2007, £623 in 2008 and £744 in 2009. The average bill in Great Britain for gas customers on pre-payments was £589 in 2007, £618 in 2008 and £744 in 2009. Figures are not available for the UK.

For an average consumer using 3,300 kWh of standard electricity per year and paying their bills by pre-payment meter, the average bill in the North East for standard electricity was £401 in 2007, £424 in 2008 and £465 in 2009. The average bill in the UK for standard electricity customers on pre-payment meters was £401 in 2007, £424 in 2008 and £465 in 2009.

## Energy: National Policy Statements

**Mr. Truswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to section 3.3.12 of the Energy National Policy Statement, what proportion of the 20.5 gigawatt capacity *(a)* has recently been constructed, *(b)* is under construction and *(c)* has both planning consent and agreement to connect to the National Grid; and what proportion is renewable under the definition given in that section. [307771]

**Mr. Kidney:** Our most recent figure for forthcoming capacity is 21.6GW. This is based on the most recent data from the National Grid which have been updated since the drafting of the National Policy Statements. Of this 21.6GW, 8 per cent., has recently been constructed, 42 per cent. is under construction and 50 per cent. has planning consent and agreement to connect to the National Grid. The following table provides further details on the proportions of this 21.6GW which is renewables and have grid connection agreements. These figures are regularly revised following periodic updates and revisions issued by the National Grid.

| | *Total forthcoming capacity (GW)* | *Of which renewables (GW)* | *Percentage renewables* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Constructed | 1.8 | 0 | — |
| Under construction | 9 | 4 | 44 |
| With planning consent and grid connection | 10.8 | 3.3 | 31 |
| Total | 21.6 | 7.3 | 34 |

*Source:*
National Grid

## Fuel Poverty: Pensioners

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners living in fuel poverty in *(a)* December 1997 and *(b)* each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [305700]

**Mr. Kidney:** Fuel poverty is not measured at individual person level. Detailed splits of fuel poverty on a consistent methodology basis are only available since 2003. The following table shows the number of fuel poor households in England, containing somebody over the age of 60, in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

*Number of fuel poor households containing somebody over the age of 60*

| | *Thousand* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 794 |
| 2006 | 1,285 |
| 2007 | 1,462 |

## Gas Fired Power Stations: Carbon Emissions

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the likely carbon dioxide emissions per unit electric output from a modern *(a)* combined cycle gas turbine, *(b)* open cycle gas turbine and *(c)* integrated gasification combined cycle power station. [303516]

**Mr. Kidney:** The rate at which power stations emit carbon dioxide are determined by individual plant efficiencies which vary considerably in actual operation. DECC uses a range of reference values which are kept under review. These are based on the estimated likely efficiency achieved in the actual generation market, including efficiency degradation following commissioning. Such estimates will differ from those available in the technical literature which do not always reflect actual performance.

The figures shown in the following table for technologies are representative values based on electricity supplied to the grid after allowing for own use and transmission and distribution losses. The values represent emissions of carbon dioxide in kilograms per kilowatt hour unit of electricity.

| *Technology* | *kg $CO_2$/kWh* |
|---|---|
| Combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) | 0.43 |

| *Technology* | *kg $CO_2$/kWh* |
|---|---|
| Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) | 0.60 |
| Integrated gasification combined cycle power station (IGCC) | 0.73 |

### Geothermal Power

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has had discussions with the governments of Iceland and Germany on the laying of a cable between those countries for the transfer of geothermal power. [303880]

**Mr. Kidney:** There have been no such discussions, although my officials have had general discussions with representatives of the Icelandic power industry on the potential for geothermal energy in Iceland and the practicality of interconnection with the UK.

### Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each year since its establishment. [305662]

**Joan Ruddock:** The information requested can only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

### Immobilisation of Vehicles

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department and its predecessors have paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302746]

**Joan Ruddock:** We have no record of any such costs being paid by the Department.

Departmental policy is that the driver of the vehicle is responsible for following all advice, guidance and legislation in relation to road safety and is therefore also responsible for meeting the cost of any fines incurred (including parking fines), as a result of any driving offence. The Department will not meet those costs.

### Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what hospitality Ministers in his Department and its predecessors with responsibility for the two miners' compensation schemes have received from Capita Group plc since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [302088]

**Mr. Kidney:** Capita became the claims handling contractor to the Coal Health Compensation schemes in 2004. No hospitality has been received by Ministers responsible for the Coal Health Compensation schemes from Capita.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter of 22 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton on Mr A Gibson. [305112]

**Joan Ruddock:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State replied to my right hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Gorton on 11 December 2009. Such a delay is obviously unacceptable. My officials have investigated the reasons for the error.

### Ofgem: Training

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) buildings attended by civil servants in Ofgem there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307454]

**Mr. Kidney:** Ofgem do not normally collate this information and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

However, during 2008-09, Ofgem held eleven team building events at a total cost of £14,930.31.

### Tidal Power

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has funded on wave generated power in the last three years. [307257]

**Mr. Kidney:** Since 2005 the remit of the pan-government Research Advisory Group (RAG) has included wave and tidal technologies, with a budget of up to £2 million to concentrate on these emerging technologies. For details of the resultant work of RAG including guidance documents and reports, on a range of issues such as aerial bird surveys, navigation risk assessment and seascape assessment, see the following web link

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/policy/offshore/rag/rag.aspx

Since 2007 the former DTI Technology programme, now transferred to the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), has supported five wave R and D projects. Further details on these projects can be found on the TSB website

http://www.innovateuk.org/_assets/pdf/other-publications/aea_tsb_annual_report_final_7%20september_09.pdf

The Carbon Trust has funded research into wave generated power through the Marine Energy Accelerator. Details on the Marine Energy Accelerator programme can be found at

http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/emerging-technologies/current-focus-areas/marine-energy-accelerator/pages/default.aspx

In 2009 the Carbon Trust launched the Marine Renewables Proving Fund. This fund will provide up to £22 million of grant funding for the testing and demonstration of pre-commercial wave and tidal stream devices.

High quality basic science research that is relevant to, though not always specific to, wave generation is funded through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's 'Supergen Marine' consortium

http://www.supergen-marine.org.uk/news.php

The Department has undertaken the following research on wave generated power in the last three years:

The development of protocols for

"Assessment of the performance of wave energy conversion systems in open sea test facilities"

"Preliminary Wave energy device performance protocol".

Both protocols can be downloaded from the DECC website

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/explained/wave_tidal/wave_tech/wave_tech.aspx

## Tidal Power: River Severn

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps have been taken to ensure that the results of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of short-listed options for the generation of tidal power in the Severn Estuary have been made available to the developers of proposals under the Severn Embryonic Technologies scheme. [307584]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is still underway and results will not be available until it completes next year. The SEA work is at this stage specific to five shortlisted schemes and its findings do not necessarily apply to the fundamentally different embryonic technologies being considered by the Severn Embryonic Technologies scheme.

Severn Embryonic Technologies scheme proposers have been briefed on the findings from the scoping stage of the SEA and are using this information and the range of published feasibility study reports as they progress in further defining their emerging designs. Proposers have also benefited from advice from the Parsons Brinckerhoff consortium, who are conducting the SEA.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanisms are in place to ensure that delays in completion of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of short-listed options for the generation of tidal power in the Severn Estuary will not adversely affect the development of proposals under the Severn Embryonic Technologies Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [307585]

**Mr. Kidney:** We are not anticipating delays to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that would impact on the proposals under the Severn Embryonic Technologies Scheme (SETS). The final reports from the proposals supported under the scheme are expected to be received from the project proposers before completion of the SEA.

The SEA work is at this stage specific to five shortlisted schemes and its findings do not necessarily apply to the fundamentally different embryonic technologies being considered by the Severn Embryonic Technologies Scheme.

## United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the ad hoc working group on Long-Term Co-operative Action of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. [307371]

**Mr. Kidney:** The ad hoc working group on Long-Term Co-operative Action of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has provided an effective process for ensuring the input of the 194 parties to the convention.

## Utilities

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if his Department will take steps to require energy utility companies to put in place resilience measures sufficient to prevent cyber-attacks rendering their services temporarily ineffective. [307798]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change works closely with the Home Office and the Centre for Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI), incorporating input from the UK Office of Cyber Security, to identify proportionate security measures to mitigate cyber and other threats, and to maximise the resilience of the Energy sector.

The Department has strong relationships with the energy sector. It has not been necessary for the Government to take steps to require such mitigations to be put in place. Rather we have adopted a partnership approach to enhance security and resilience which recognises that it is in all of our interests, both from a national security perspective and from a commercial perspective, to work together to continually improve the resilience of the UK's energy sector.

## Warm Front Scheme: Derbyshire

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households applied to receive grants under the Warm Front Scheme in *(a)* Chesterfield and *(b)* Derbyshire in each year since the inception of the scheme. [307244]

**Mr. Kidney:** The requested data for the present phase of the scheme (2005 to present) are shown in the following table. Prior to 2005, the scheme was managed by a different delivery body in Derbyshire and the data retained by the current scheme manager are not sufficient to provide a consolidated response.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *Chesterfield constituency* | |
| 2005-06 | 320 |
| 2006-07 | 776 |
| 2007-08 | 1,049 |
| 2008-09 | 724 |
| 2009-10 up to 30 November 2009 | 689 |
| Total | 3,558 |

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *Derbyshire county* | |
| 2005-06 | 4,281 |
| 2006-07 | 8,394 |
| 2007-08 | 9,462 |
| 2008-09 | 7,849 |
| 2009-10 up to 30 November 2009 | 5,925 |
| Total | 35,911 |

### Waste Management

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change at what location on his Department's website can the United Kingdom's third national report on compliance with the obligations of the joint convention on the safety of spent fuel management and on the safety of radioactive waste management be found; how the information contained in this report has been conveyed to the public; and when the national reports from member states to the convention were last reviewed under IAEA auspices. [304684]

**Mr. Kidney:** The United Kingdom's third national report on compliance with the IAEA Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management can be freely accessed by the public on DECC's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/nuclear/radioactivity/government/international/iaea_jointconv/iaea_Jointconv.aspx

The last review of national reports from contracting parties to the joint convention

was undertaken at the joint convention review meeting in Vienna in May 2009.

### Wind Power

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many offshore wind turbines became operational in UK waters in each of the last five years. [303527]

**Mr. Kidney:** The following table sets out the number of offshore wind turbines that became operational in UK waters in each of the last five years.

| | *Number of turbines* | *Installed capacity (MW)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 30 | 60 |
| 2005 | 30 | 90 |
| 2006 | 30 | 90 |
| 2007 | 25 | [1]90 |
| 2008 | 60 | 194.2 |

[1] Does not include the Beatrice demonstrator project which is outside UK territorial waters.

*Source:*

AEA Technology

### Wind Power: Offshore Structures

**Mr. Truswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many gigawatts of *(a)* renewable and *(b)* non-renewable energy in applications receiving consideration under (i) section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and (ii) the Transport and Works Act 2002 relate to offshore wind farms in English waters. [307772]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department is dealing with five consent applications under section 36 of the Electricity Act for proposed wind farms in English waters. The total generating capacity of these applications is nearly 2.25GW. There are currently no TWA applications under consideration for wind farms in English waters. There are no applications under either regime for non-renewable energy projects in English waters.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff of his Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306714]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** It was unnecessary for the Department for International Development (DFID) to maintain a Redeployment Pool prior to 1 October 2009.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 2007. [306426]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) Senior Civil Service (SCS) members are eligible to be considered for a year end non-consolidated performance award. Awards are intended to reward delivery of personal business objectives during the reporting year or other short-term personal contributions to wider organisational objectives. In considering SCS members for an award, line managers are asked to take into account:

performance against agreed priority business objectives or targets total delivery record over the year

relative stretch (i.e. the challenge of the job compared to that of others)

response to unforeseen events that affected the performance agreement.

Awards are funded within existing pay bill controls, have to be re-earned each year against the pre-determined criteria above and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

The annual size of the non-consolidated performance pay pot for SCS members is based on recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB).

The following table show the amount allocated in each of the last three years for year end non-consolidated performance related awards.

| | *Year end non-consolidated performance related awards (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 584,000 |
| 2008-09 | 641,510 |

| | *Year end non-consolidated performance related awards (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 634,150 |

Note:
Payments made are for the financial year indicated but relate to performance achieved in the previous reporting year.

Staff in grades below the SCS are eligible to be considered for a year end non-consolidated performance award. Awards are intended to reward both the delivery of personal business objectives during the reporting year and demonstration of DFID's values.

The following table show the amount allocated in each of the last three years for year end non-consolidated performance related awards.

| | *Year end non-consolidated performance related awards (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 558,233 |
| 2008-09 | 0 |
| 2009-10 | 742,515 |

Notes:
1 Payments made are for the financial year indicated but relate to performance achieved in the previous reporting year
2 DFID's reward arrangements did not allow for the payment of any performance related awards in the 2008-09 financial year to staff below the Senior Civil Service

DFID does not operate an in-year performance related award scheme for any staff.

## Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the *(a)* subject and *(b)* location of each away day was. [306405]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** This information can not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

## Palestinians: Overseas Aid

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has provided to Gaza in each of the last five years. [306474]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Many of the projects funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) cover both the west bank and Gaza and so it is not possible to give figures for Gaza alone. Detailed figures of DFID expenditure are included in the Annual Report and Statistics on International Development which are available in the Library and on the DFID website. In recent years direct DFID funding to the Occupied Palestinian Territories has increased from £17.6 million in 2004-05 to £60 million in 2008-09 (including our support to the UN Relief and Works Agency).

Since the start of the Gaza conflict the UK Government have pledged nearly £47 million to help the people of Gaza, of which £20 million has been provided so far this year for humanitarian aid and early recovery. In 2007-08 DFID also provided £3 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to meet immediate humanitarian needs in Gaza.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions he has raised Gaza access issues with his Israeli counterpart in the last 12 months; and on what such occasions the Israeli government has acceded to requests for access. [306801]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Achieving improved access to Gaza is a priority for the UK Government and the wider international community. We raise the issue of access with the Government of Israel at all available opportunities. On 1 December the Secretary of State spoke with Ehud Barak, the Israeli Minister of Defense on improving access. Last month I met with Israeli Vice Prime Minister Shalom, and with Deputy Foreign Minister Ayalon. Earlier in the year both my right hon Friend and I met with the former Minister of Welfare and Social Services, Isaac Herzog, and the Secretary of State also wrote to Ehud Barak.

The collective lobbying of the international community has had some impact. Access for food products has improved since the end of the conflict in January, and in October small quantities of cement, plastic pipes and desalination equipment were allowed in for water and sanitation projects for the first time. Despite this, we remain very concerned about the situation in Gaza and will continue to press the Israeli Government for improved access for humanitarian aid and reconstruction materials.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of the aid supplies destined for Gaza in respect of which access to Gaza has been *(a)* blocked and *(b)* delayed since the start of the blockade; and what items were involved in each case. [306803]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** There is no single report confirming which aid supplies have been blocked and delayed since the start of the blockade. What is allowed in remains unclear and subject to unpredictable change by the Government of Israel.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid supplies for Gaza funded by *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU have been denied passage to Gaza in 2009; what estimate he has made of the cost to Gaza of such denials; and what assessment he has made of the effect of such denials on the intended recipients of such supplies. [306804]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** United Kingdom and European Union aid projects in Gaza have been subject to the same access restrictions as other humanitarian projects operating there. Items that have been rejected or delayed since January include foodstuffs, construction materials, agricultural materials and hygiene kits. Although there has been no specific assessment of the cost to Gaza of access restrictions, they continue to impact on the humanitarian response.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what channels of delivery he has considered for the provision to Gaza of aid supplies being held in Israel. [306805]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Without full, safe and unhindered access for aid, aid workers and reconstruction materials a comprehensive response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza remains impossible.

The UK Government and others in the international community have considered alternative delivery channels for humanitarian supplies, including delivery by sea. However, we have concluded that such alternatives are neither practical nor sustainable.

The UK considers the immediate and unconditional lifting of all restrictions on Gaza's land and maritime borders as the only viable solution and will continue to lobby the Government of Israel on this issue.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Postal Services Commission: Training

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Postal Services Commission's buildings attended by civil servants in the Postal Services Commission there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307451]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for which Postcomm has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked Postcomm's chief executive, Tim Brown, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Adult Education: Finance

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Pre-Budget Report, Cm 7747, from which areas of the adult skills budget he expects to make the £300 million savings identified. [307554]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Government have a strong record of investment in FE and skills. We will focus public spending on those individuals and employers in greatest need and on those sectors that are most vital to Britain's future.

### Apprentices

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprentices have lost a placement in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [306565]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to him on 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1232W, when I explained that data about the number of apprentices made redundant are not currently available. We have put in place for this academic year, from 1 August, arrangements to record the number of apprentices who are made redundant. We expect these data to be available from early in 2010.

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the availability of work placements for Level 3 apprenticeships. [306566]

**Kevin Brennan:** "Our Skills for Growth—the National Skills Strategy" (November 2009) signalled our intention to significantly expand the number of advanced apprenticeships. Not only is this critical to the needs of the economy, it also reflects employer demand. Numbers are now steadily increasing: There were 78,700 starts (provisional) at advanced level in 2008/09 (34 per cent. of all apprenticeship starts), up from 73,000 (32 per cent.) in 2007/08.

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) will have an important role in helping us drive forward our ambitions for more skilled technician apprenticeship opportunities and stimulate employer demand. NAS is already working with employers and training providers, supported by marketing and communications activity, to ensure awareness of the values and benefits of training at technician level.

### Broadband

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to commission a study into the effect on demand for broadband of the proposed 50 pence per month levy on fixed telephone lines. [306977]

**Mr. Timms:** The Department has no such plans. We will carefully monitor the impact of the Landline Duty, but we do not expect it to impact negatively on demand for broadband when set against falling telecoms prices over the last three years.

### Business: EU Grants and Loans

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much money has been allocated to British-based companies from the 50,521 million euro programme administered by the Research Executive Agency of the European Commission under the Seventh Framework programme; and which such companies have received such funding. [301219]

**Mr. Lammy:** The UK has remained a strong player in the EU Seventh Framework programme, receiving €1,348 million, equivalent to 13.7 per cent. of all FP7 funding to date. Of this, UK private commercial organisations have received €269 million. This funding has been distributed to 607 UK organisations; details of these are given in the attached annex.

The parts of FP7 that the Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Commission will manage are:

the Marie-Curie Actions of the People programme;

the SME specific activities of the Capacities programme;

a large part of the space and the security themes from the Cooperation programmes;

However, it is too soon to identify with any confidence the UK private commercial organisations in the annex that will have received monies as a result of activities under REA management.

### Business: Government Assistance

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the policies of his

Department and its predecessors in *(a)* providing support to business and *(b)* improving levels of skills in (i) England, (ii) the North East, (iii) Tees Valley and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency since 1997. [302081]

**Kevin Brennan:** BIS evaluates the effectiveness of business support in England through a variety of research and analysis. This includes:

Economic Impact of Business Link Local Services (BERR 2007) which assessed the effectiveness and value for money of Business Link. This includes a regional chapter (chapter 7).

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file40289.doc

Business Links Value for Money Evaluation (DTI 1998)

http://berr.gov.uk/files/file39415.doc

Recently completed research undertaken on behalf of BIS includes an Early Assessment of Business Link Health Checks by the Institute for Employment Studies and a mystery shopping based study of the early stages of the Business Link service conducted by Middlesex University. The reports from these studies were both published on the BIS website on 27 November.

*Skills*

Raising UK skill levels to world class status is a priority for Government and the progress achieved is an important indicator of the success of our policies. The following table shows how skill attainment of the working age population has increased since 1997 in England and in the north-east. Comparable and accurate figures for the sub-regions requested are not available.

Government provide support to employers to increase the skills of their employees through Train to Gain and Apprenticeships. Both programmes continue to go from strength to strength. Since 2006 Train to Gain has supported people to start over 1.4 million qualifications, and over 780,000 qualifications have already been achieved. This has arisen from engagement with 143,000 employers through the brokerage service alone and many more engaging directly with providers. We have rescued and expanded apprenticeships, trebling the number of starts from 65,000 in 1996/97 to 234,000 in 2008/09. Tables showing growth of this programme in the areas requested follow. Figures for sub-regions are not available for qualifications attainments and figures for Tees Valley are not available for programme data.

*Percentage of England qualified to each level in Q4 of each year*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No qualifications | 17.1 | 16.5 | 15.6 | 15.0 | 15.1 | 14.1 | 13.7 | 13.4 | 12.6 | 12.2 | 11.4 | 10.9 |
| Proportion at level 2+ | 61.0 | 62.5 | 64.0 | 65.0 | 65.0 | 66.4 | 67.2 | 67.6 | 68.9 | 69.9 | 70.7 | 71.2 |
| Proportion at level 3+ | 40.5 | 42.2 | 43.5 | 44.6 | 44.7 | 46.0 | 47.0 | 47.5 | 48.4 | 49.4 | 50.6 | 50.8 |
| Proportion at level 4+ | 22.3 | 23.7 | 24.5 | 25.2 | 25.2 | 26.2 | 27.2 | 27.9 | 28.5 | 30.0 | 30.9 | 31.2 |

*Percentage of north-east qualified to each level in Q4 of each year*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No qualifications | 17.0 | 16.3 | 15.3 | 14.9 | 14.8 | 14.1 | 13.6 | 12.9 | 12.3 | 12.2 | 11.5 | 10.8 |
| Proportion at level 2+ | 61.5 | 63.0 | 64.3 | 65.1 | 65.5 | 66.5 | 67.6 | 68.1 | 69.4 | 69.7 | 70.6 | 71.4 |
| Proportion at level 3+ | 41.0 | 42.5 | 43.9 | 44.8 | 45.1 | 46.1 | 47.4 | 47.8 | 48.7 | 49.5 | 50.4 | 51.0 |
| Proportion at level 4+ | 22.6 | 23.9 | 24.6 | 25.2 | 25.5 | 26.3 | 27.5 | 27.9 | 28.7 | 30.0 | 30.4 | 31.1 |

*Apprenticeship completions and Train to Gain achievements*

| *Apprenticeships completions* | *2003/04* | *2004/05* | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | *2007/08* | *2008/09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 49,300 | 67,200 | 98,700 | 111,800 | 112,600 | 126,900 |
| North East | 3,700 | 5,200 | 7,200 | 8,000 | 7,600 | 9,000 |
| Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland | 190 | 250 | 310 | 340 | 280 | 350 |

*Regional development agencies (RDAs)*

The RDAs contribute to both the business support and skills agendas. Their performance from 2002-03 to 2006-07 was evaluated by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) on behalf of BERR in March 2009. Using gross figures for the period 2002/03 to 2006/07, provided by the RDAs to Parliament, this indicates that the RDA have helped to create 56,000 businesses and have provided 1.25 million learning opportunities. Applying the average additionality ratios found by PwC to these figures gives net figures of 27,000 businesses and 0.7 million learning opportunities.

For the north-east, the 65 per cent. of spending which the evaluation covered assisted 9,500 businesses (1,700 net), helped to create 1,900 businesses (1,100 net) and provided skills assistance to 158,600 people (98,300 net). Figures at sub-regional level are not available.

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in the City of York Council have received Government guarantees on bank loans under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee; which businesses received such guarantees; and what the monetary value of the loan or loans guaranteed was in each case. [307386]

**Ian Lucas:** Set out in the table is the information for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee for the City of York council since it was launched on 14 January:

| | City of York |
|---|---|
| Number of loans offered | 9 |
| Number of loans drawn | 7 |
| Value of loans offered (£ million) | 0.92 |
| Value of loans drawn (£ million) | 0.56 |

Information about individual businesses that have received an Enterprise Finance Guarantee loan is confidential and they cannot be named without their consent.

### Capital Investment

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much of the £600 million efficiency savings referred to on page 110 of the 2009 pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, will be found by *(a)* the Higher Education Funding Council for England and *(b)* each Research Council; and whether efficiency savings from the Research Councils will be re-allocated to the Research Councils. [307607]

**Mr. Lammy:** The £600 million announcement was made in the pre-Budget report. This was not a spending review. The Government would not expect to decide the distribution of the figure at this stage. The Government will wish to make an informed decision on future funding against the background of Lord Browne's independent review of higher education funding and student finance which will report next year. It will be looking at the wider funding and sustainability of the whole HE system. We will reflect on the review's findings before setting budgets beyond 2010-11.

### Christmas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305640]

**Mr. McFadden:** The following information lists the number of trees for which this Department and its predecessors have purchased for reception areas in buildings on its Estate. The costs include installation, decoration and removal by our foliage contractors. Information as follows:

| | Number of trees purchased | Cost (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | [1]2 | 661 |
| 2006 | [1]2 | 661 |
| 2007 | [1]3 | 1,099 |
| 2008 | [1]3 | 1,144 |
| 2009 | [1]3 | 1,144 |

[1] One artificial

All trees, other than artificial trees, are sourced from UK growers who are members of the British Association of Christmas Tree Growers. All BCTG members are required to adhere to strict standards of sustainability. All real trees are recycled and turned into mulch. Artificial trees are broken down and then rebuilt the following year.

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond directly to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Peter Mason, dated 9 December 2009:*

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 07/12/2009 reference 2009/449 ] to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how many Christmas trees were purchased in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of.

In each year one Christmas tree was purchased and the costs were:-

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 30.99 |
| 2006 | 39.99 |
| 2007 | 49.99 |
| 2008 | 57.53 |
| 2009 | 59.95 |

The trees were purchased from local garden centres that used suppliers who managed their plantations sustainably. The trees were disposed of using the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames Christmas tree disposal system so that they are disposed of sustainably.

The National Measurement Office has reviewed the sustainability of real against artificial trees and the carbon footprint of real trees is currently considered to be less than artificial trees.

*Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 9 December 2009:*

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 18 November 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office has not purchased any Christmas trees in the last five years.

The Office has hired an artificial Christmas tree (£385 per annum 2005-2008, £500 2009) each year but this remains the responsibility of the owner.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 15 December 2009:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 7 December 2009, UIN 305640, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has not purchased any real Christmas trees in the last five years.

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 15 December 2009:*

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question, how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of.

The Insolvency Service has not purchased any Christmas trees in each of the last five years.

### Competition Commission

**Andrew George:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions since *(a)* the creation of the Competition Commission and *(b)* the enactment of the Enterprise Act 2002 his Department and its predecessors have declined to (i) support or (ii) accept the Commission's recommendations or referrals for Government action arising from the Commission's work. [301028]

**Kevin Brennan:** There has been one occasion where the Department and its predecessors have declined to support or accept the Competition Commission's recommendations or referrals to Government arising from their work since their creation, and, the enactment of the Enterprise Act 2002.

In the Commission's report on Supermarkets published in October 2000, it recommended that there should be a new approval system for supermarket developments. However, it did not make an adverse finding on this issue. The recommendation was not rejected but in responding, the Secretary of State asked the Office of Fair Trading to monitor the situation.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305693]

**Mr. McFadden:** BIS has spent just under £154,000 on works on office space for Ministers and their private offices in the last 12 months. Most of this activity resulted from closing down ministerial and support offices in DIUS's Kingsgate House office and moving them to 1 Victoria Street upon creation of BIS, with the consequent need to reorganise accommodation in 1 Victoria Street. The merger will save money in the longer term.

### Departmental Domestic Visits

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions each Minister in his Department has visited a *(a)* higher and *(b)* further education institution in the last 12 months. [306661]

**Mr. Lammy:** On *(a)* my noble Friend the Secretary of State has made seven visits, my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has made one visit, my noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade and Investment has made ten visits, some visited more than once, to institutions in the UK and also to two abroad, my noble Friend the Minister of State for Science and Innovation has made 14, my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Postal Affairs and Employment Relations has made 10, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Regulatory Reform has made two and I have made 11 visits.

On *(b)* my noble Friend the Secretary of State has made two visits. My noble Friend the Minister of State for Science and Innovation has made one, my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Postal Affairs and Employment Relations has made nine, my hon. Friend the then the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for (Mr. Simon) made 10 visits and my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs has made eight.

### Departmental Energy

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [305970]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) publishes central Government Departments' display energy certificate (DEC) operational ratings on a "building by building level" twice a year. The most recent data, published on 31 July, contains DEC data up to and including 28 February. Data relating to the month ending 30 September will be published on 18 December. This information can be found at:

http://www.ocg.gov.uk/government_delivery_display_energy_certificate_data.asp

The table OGC publishes will also include DEC reference numbers for each building, which can be used to view each building's advisory report on the following website:

https://www.ndepcregister.com/home.html.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to you directly.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 15 December 2009:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 7 December 2009, UIN 305970, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's head office in Cardiff is required to produce a Display Energy Certificate. Results are available from 2008, as follows:-

| | Band | Energy rating |
|---|---|---|
| 2008 | E | 109 |
| 2009 | E | 109 |

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 15 December 2009:*

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question, what the (a) energy rating and (b) energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available.

The attached table lists the buildings occupied by The Insolvency Service and shows the (a) energy rating and (b) energy band for them in 2009, where these are known. Where data is not given, we have requested it from the landlords for our premises and are waiting to hear from them. Before 2009 we either had no data, or it was the same as given in the table.

| *Location* | *Address* | *Energy band* | *Energy rating* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | Levels 3/4, Cannon House, 18 Priory Queensway, Birmingham B4 6BS | G | 200 |
| Birmingham | Cobalt Square, Floors 6-9, 83 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B2 4QG | D | 92 |

| *Location* | *Address* | *Energy band* | *Energy rating* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Blackpool | Seneca House, The Links, Blackpool Business Park, Amy Johnson Way, Blackpool FY4 2RS | | |
| Bournemouth | Richmond House, Part 3rd Floor, Richmond Hill, Bournemouth, BH2 6EZ | — | — |
| Brighton | 69 Middle Street, Brighton, BN1 1BE | — | — |
| Bristol | Part First Floor, Tower Wharf, Cheese Lane, Bristol BS2 0JJ | B | 35 |
| Cambridge | Abbeygate House, 2nd Floor and Part 1st Floor, 164-167 East Road, Cambridge, CB1 1DB | — | — |
| Canterbury | Marlowe Hse, 1st and 2nd Floors, Chaucer Business Park, Thanet Way, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3FE | — | — |
| Cardiff | Companies House, Part 3rd Floor, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3ZA | — | — |
| Chester | Windsor House, 3rd Floor, Pepper Street, Chester, CH1 3DF | — | — |
| Croydon | Sunley House, 1st and 2nd Floors, Bedford Park, Croydon, CR0 2AP | G | 200 |
| Edinburgh | Ladywell House, Part 2nd Floor, Ladywell Road, Corstorphine, Edinburgh, EH12 7TF | — | — |
| Exeter | Senate Court, 3rd Floor, Southernhay Gardens, Exeter, EX1 1UG | — | — |
| Gloucester | Southgate House, 1st Floor, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UB | — | — |
| Hull | Anchor House, 3rd Floor, The Maltings, Silvester Street, Hull, HU1 3HA | — | — |
| Ipswich | St Clare House, 1st and 8th Floors, Princes Street, Ipswich, IP1 1LX | — | — |
| Leeds | 1 City Walk, 3rd Floor, Leeds, LS11 9DA | G | 200 |
| Leicester | Wellington House, 4th Floor, Wellington Street, Leicester, LE1 6HL | — | — |
| Liverpool | Cunard Building, 2nd Floor and Part Basement, Pier Head, Liverpool, L3 1DS | — | — |
| London | 21 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3QW | G | 152 |
| Manchester | 2nd Floor, 3 Piccadilly Place, London Road, Manchester, M1 3BN | — | — |
| Medway | Prince Regent House, 1st floor, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4QZ | C | 65 |
| Newcastle | Melbourne House, 1st floor, Pandon Bank, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 2JQ | — | — |
| Northampton | Sol House, 1st Floor, 29 St Katherine's Street, Northampton, NN1 2QZ | — | — |
| Norwich | Emmanuel House, 2 Convent Road, Norwich, NR2 1PA | — | — |
| Nottingham | The Frontage, 4th Floor - Blocks A, B and C, Queen Street, Nottingham NG1 2BL | D | 90 |
| Plymouth | Cobourg House, 1st floor Part and 1st Floor Other Part, Mayflower Street, Plymouth, PL1 1DJ | — | — |
| Reading | Apex Plaza, 3rd Floor, Forbury Road, Reading, RG1 1AX | D | 89 |
| St Albans | Trident House, 1st Floor, 42/48 Victoria Street, St. Albans, AL1 3HR | — | — |
| Sheffield | City Plaza, 5th Floor, City Plaza South, Pinfold Street, Sheffield, S1 2GU | — | — |
| Southampton | Town Quay, Ground Floor - Suite A, Waterside House, Southampton, S014 2AQ | — | — |
| Southend | Central House, Part 4th Floor, Clifftown Road, Southend, SS1 1AB | — | — |
| Stockton | St Marks House, 2nd Floor, St Marks Court, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees, TS17 6QT | — | — |
| Stoke | Ground Floor, Copthall House, Nelson Place, King Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, ST5 1UE | — | — |
| Swansea | 1st, 2nd and 3rd Floors, Langdon House, Langdon Road, Swansea | — | — |
| Watford | Part 4th Floor, Exchange House 60 Exchange Road, Watford, Herts, WD18 0YP | — | — |

*Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 9 December 2009:*

House of Commons Parliamentary Question: 2009/460 I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 07 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Building Energy Performance operational ratings for Concept House building occupied by Intellectual Property Office are available for 2008/09 and 2009/10 and are as follows: In 2008/2009 energy rating was 167, the energy band was G; in 2009/2010 energy rating is 148, and the energy band is F.

*Letter from Peter Mason, dated 16 December 2009:*

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 7 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Agency occupies only one building, at Stanton Avenue, Teddington. The only year for which an Energy Rating has been issued is the current one, the certificate expiring on 19 December 2009. That certificate gives an Energy Rating of 123, Energy Band E. This rating will be reviewed as part of the process for issuing a new certificate.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305499]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created in June 2009 from the merger of the Department for Business, Enterprise and

Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

As BIS did not exist in 2008, we have supplied the statistics for the former BERR.

Statistics published by the Ministry of Justice on freedom of information in central Government for 2008 show that of a total of 737 non-routine requests received by the former BERR Department (based on aggregated quarterly data) 70 per cent. (516) received a substantive response within 20 days. 87 per cent. (638) of requests were dealt with 'in time', that is within 20 days by meeting the deadline or other permitted extension deadline.

The statistics can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

and copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what redesigns of websites of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its predecessors and *(c)* its agencies were carried out since 27 June 2007; what the cost to the public purse was of each redesign; and when each redesign was conducted. [305952]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created on 5 June by merging the former BERR and DIUS. A website at www.bis.gov.uk was set up. The design of this website was upgraded in September at zero cost, with all work done in-house by the Department's digital media team.

BERR and DIUS were created in June 2007 from the former DTI and the former Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

The DTI website was redesigned and rebuilt to reflect the priorities and remit of BERR. The site was relaunched in September 2008 at a cost of £528,912.

An interim DIUS website was launched in October 2007. A redesigned version was launched in March at a cost of £105,167.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

*Letter from Gareth Jones:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 7 December 2009, UIN 305952, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Since 27 June 2007 there has been no re-design of Companies House website, and therefore no cost to the public purse.

*Letter from Peter Mason, dated 9 December 2009:*

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 7 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The National Measurement Office website underwent a complete re-development between September and December 2008. The cost directly attributable to this work by an external web development supplier was £20,649.68 plus VAT. In addition it is estimated that across the Agency some £45,000 of staff time was devoted to this project.

*Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 9 December 2009:*

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 07 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Cost to the public purse:

The Intellectual Property Office website redesign cost £355,000.

When the redesign was conducted:

The Intellectual Property Office website was redesigned and launched on 1 December 2008.

Background Note:

The original website launched in May 1997. Recent enhancements to the website were introduced as a result of extensive user consultation. The new website better provides guidance and tools to professional users, individuals and businesses in the UK to help them better understand, manage and benefit from Intellectual Property.

*Letter from Stephen Speed:*

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question if he will list any re-designs of websites held by (a) his Department, (b) its predecessors and (c) its agencies since 27 June 2007: what the cost to the public purse was of each redesign; and when each redesign was conducted.

The Insolvency Service has not re-designed its website since 27 June 2007.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff of his Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306719]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created in June from the former Department for Innovation for Universities and Skills (DIUS) and former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). The information requested is as follows:

| | *Number of staff* |
|---|---|
| *Former DIUS* | |
| January 2009 | 19 |
| April 2009 | 15 |
| *Former BERR* | |
| January 2009 | 7 |
| April 2009 | 5 |
| *BIS* | |
| July 2009 | 14 |
| October 2009 | 14 |

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305885]

**Mr. McFadden:** No training courses overseas are funded from the budgets that are held centrally within the Department. The information requested is not held centrally for training budgets that are devolved to individual units in the Department and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since its inception; and what the cost was of each. [307526]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department does not centrally record details of *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside of the Department's building attended by civil servants. To obtain this information would require searching through four departmental and IT systems and entail disproportionate costs.

Away days are important for bringing people together, team building, reviewing work priorities and development of staff.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister of State, Depar[illegible] for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of Parliamentary Questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307536]

**Mr. McFadden:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (John Mason) on 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 507W.

### Digital Broadcasting

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how his Department *(a)* defines and *(b)* measures digital inequality; and if he will make a statement. [306996]

**Mr. Timms:** This Department does not define digital inequality. Instead, we define digital inclusion as

> "the best use of digital technology, either directly or indirectly to improve the lives and life chances of all citizens, particularly the most disadvantaged, and the places in which they live".

On measurement, Government stated in the Digital Britain White Paper its intention to evaluate the work of the Consortium for the Promotion of Digital Participation using the following metrics:

1. Reach: access; number of households online, and numbers using the internet outside the home;
2. Breadth of engagement: modes of usage and consumption (communication, retail, content consumed, public services used);
3. Depth of engagement: user contributions, comments, joining networks, user generated content, self publishing, content creation, photos uploaded and shared, etc.; and
4. Social and economic impact: particularly the impact on economic recovery and benefits for disadvantaged groups and communities.

### Fire Services: Working Hours

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment has been made of the effect of implementation of the European Working Time Directive on *(a)* full-time and *(b)* retained firefighters. [307088]

**Mr. McFadden:** In accordance with usual procedure, impact assessments were prepared on the Working Time Regulations 1998 and their extension in 2003 to previously excluded sectors. The Government are well aware of the value of working time flexibility for the labour market in general and firefighting services in particular. The individual right to opt-out from the maximum 48 hour week is important not only for firefighters working the retained duty system (RDS), many of whom work full time for their primary employer, but also for whole-time firefighters who work the flexible duty system or provide RDS cover. This was one of the reasons the Government fought for and secured the maintenance of the opt-out throughout recent negotiations on the revision of the Working Time Directive.

### Graduates

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of students graduated from university with a degree in *(a)* chemistry, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* physics and *(d)* engineering in (i) 1990, (ii) 1997, (iii) 2003 and (iv) the last year for which figures are available. [307329]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest available figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) are shown in the table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January.

Figures for 1990/91 academic year are not available; the earliest figures available are for the 1994/95 academic year which have been provided as an alternative.

Due to a change in the classification of subject and the way students are allocated in the 2002/03 academic year, earlier years are not directly comparable. This is demonstrated in the table by a break in the time series.

*First degree qualifiers[1] in chemistry, mathematics, physics and engineering UK higher education institutions. Academic years 1994/95, 1997/98, 2003/04 and 2007/08*

| | *Chemistry* | | *Mathematics* | | *Physics* | | *Engineering* | | *All subjects* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Academic year* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 1994/95[2] | 4,110 | 2 | 3,435 | 1 | 2,480 | 1 | 19,805 | 8 | 237,795 | 100 |
| 1997/98[2] | 3,395 | 1 | 3,370 | 1 | 2,320 | 1 | 20,330 | 8 | 258,755 | 100 |
| 2003/04 | 2,735 | 1 | 4,655 | 2 | 2,180 | 1 | 17,755 | 6 | 292,090 | 100 |

*First degree qualifiers[1] in chemistry, mathematics, physics and engineering UK higher education institutions. Academic years 1994/95, 1997/98, 2003/04 and 2007/08*

| | *Chemistry* | | *Mathematics* | | *Physics* | | *Engineering* | | *All subjects* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Academic year* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 2007/08 | 2,860 | 1 | 5,300 | 2 | 2,270 | 1 | 17,785 | 5 | 334,890 | 100 |

[1] Cover qualifiers from all domiciles and modes of study.

[2] Due to a change in the classification of subject and the way students are allocated in the 2002/03 academic year, earlier years are not directly comparable.

*Note:*

Figures are based on a qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

## Graduates: Work Experience

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent creating and maintaining the *(a)* Graduate Talent Pool and *(b)* Our future, its in our hands website. [307770]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has spent £158,000 (inc VAT) on creation and maintenance of the Graduate Talent Pool website.

The "Our future. Its in our hands" website is owned and managed by the Learning and Skills Council. I have asked the chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council to write to you separately to provide an answer to that part of the question.

## Higher Education

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency attended university courses in each year since 1996-97. [307161]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest information is provided in the table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January.

*Enrolments[1] from Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency[2] UK higher education institutions[3]—*Academic years 1996/97 to 2007/08

| *Academic year* | *Enrolments* |
|---|---|
| 1996/97 | 740 |
| 1997/98 | 860 |
| 1998/99 | 1,050 |
| 1999/2000 | 970 |
| 2000/01 | 1,025 |
| 2001/02 | 1,120 |
| 2002/03 | 1,150 |
| 2003/04 | 1,125 |
| 2004/05 | 1,145 |
| 2005/06 | 1,170 |
| 2006/07 | 1,150 |
| 2007/08 | 1,145 |

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate students of all ages enrolled on full-time and part-time courses

[2] The table does not include enrolments where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid information.

[3] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of students across the time series.

*Note:*

Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

## Higher Education: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from Leeds city area *(a)* attended university courses and *(b)* received student loans to attend university courses in each year since 1996-97. [306593]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) on enrolments from the Leeds local authority area are as follows:

*Table 1: Enrolments[1] from Leeds local authority, UK higher education institutions[2]*

| *Academic year* | *Enrolments* |
|---|---|
| 1996/97 | 15,055 |
| 1997/98 | 15,295 |
| 1998/99 | 16,765 |
| 1999/2000 | 16,890 |
| 2000/01 | 17,145 |
| 2001/02 | 17,510 |
| 2002/03 | 17,970 |
| 2003/04 | 17,875 |
| 2004/05 | 18,610 |
| 2005/06 | 19,060 |
| 2006/07 | 19,255 |
| 2007/08 | 18,850 |

[1] Covers enrolments to both full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate courses. This includes study on all years of courses, not just new entrants.

[2] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their data across the time series.

*Note:*

Figures are based on a snapshot count as at 1 December to maintain consistency across the time series.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The number of student loan borrowers from the Leeds local authority area is as follows.

*Table 2: Income contingent student loans 2000/01 to 2008/09[1]*

| *Academic year* | *Student loan borrowers* |
|---|---|
| 2000/01 | 6,840 |
| 2001/02 | 8,090 |
| 2002/03 | 8,480 |
| 2003/04 | 8,680 |
| 2004/05 | 8,670 |
| 2005/06 | 9,050 |
| 2006/07 | 9,670 |
| 2007/08 | 10,200 |

*Table 2: Income contingent student loans 2000/01 to 2008/09*[1]

| *Academic year* | *Student loan borrowers* |
|---|---|
| 2008/09 (Provisional) | 10,680 |

[1] Consistent data are not available before academic year 2000/01. Figures exclude the older mortgage style loans, and cover loans for maintenance and tuition fees.

*Source:*
Student Loans Company.

Data from the two sources (HESA and SLC) are not directly comparable because certain students and courses (for example post graduate courses) included in Table 1 do not attract student support. Additionally, Table 2 provides those who have taken out loans, but does not include those who may have received student support in the form of a grant such as students from lower income families or those who study part-time courses.

### Immobilisation of Vehicles

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors have paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302751]

**Mr. McFadden:** Any costs which may exceptionally have been paid in association with vehicle clamping charges would not be recorded separately. To provide this information would therefore entail a disproportionate cost.

Departmental policy is that the driver of the vehicle is responsible for following all advice, guidance and legislation in relation to road safety and is therefore also responsible for meeting the cost of any fines incurred (including parking fines), as a result of any driving offence. The Department will not meet those costs.

### Internet

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Ofcom on access to next generation networks for internet service providers. [302854]

**Mr. Timms:** I and my officials are in regular contact with Ofcom on a range of issues, including next generation access.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Graduates

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of university students who graduated in 2009 and who are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* Leeds North West. [307764]

**Mr. Lammy:** BIS does not have information on the number of graduates who are claiming jobseeker's allowance.

However, as a proxy, for those who left university in 2009, we can use the labour force survey to look at their initial outcomes in July to September 2009. The following table gives the latest BIS estimates of the number of 2009 UK domiciled first degree leavers in different labour market activities. Note that typically new graduates take time to move into employment in the months after graduating, with more graduates out of work in the first few months after graduation.

BIS does not hold this information for England, Leeds or Leeds North West.

*BIS estimates of the number of first degree graduates in each activity*

| | *2008/09 graduates* |
|---|---|
| Employment | 153,000 |
| ILO unemployment | 88,000 |
| Economic inactivity | 49,000 |

*Sources:*
Labour Force Survey Quarter 3 2009.
BIS internal estimates.

### Lord Sugar

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 513W, on Lord Sugar, on what dates those meetings took place. [307655]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 15 December 2009]*: Between the dates previously indicated, Lord Sugar met Baroness Vadera on 11 June 2009, 7 July 2009 (twice) and 3 August 2009. He met Lord Davies of Abersoch on 13 July 2009, 24 September 2009, 1 October 2009 and 30 November 2009.

### Money Laundering Regulations 2007

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 607W, on estate agents: registration, how many estate agents who have registered with the Office of Fair Trading under the provisions of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 have registered *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five, *(f)* six, *(g)* seven, *(h)* eight, *(i)* nine and *(j)* 10 premises. [308008]

**Kevin Brennan:** To date, 1,775 estate agents have registered with the OFT for money laundering purposes. The registered estate agents break down is as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* one premise | 1,343 |
| *(b)* two premises | 235 |
| *(c)* three premises | 66 |
| *(d)* four premises | 45 |
| *(e)* five premises | 21 |
| *(f)* six premises | 15 |
| *(g)* seven premises | 8 |
| *(h)* eight premises | 4 |
| *(i)* nine premises | 5 |
| *(j)* 10 premises | 0 |

The remaining 33 estate agents have 11 or more premises.

### National Investment Corporation

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on the creation of a national investment corporation; what the remit of the corporation will be;

when it will make its first investment; what the criteria for investments will be; and what funding has been allocated for a corporation in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [304200]

**Ian Lucas** *[holding answer 9 December 2009]*: The Rowlands Growth Capital Review, published in November 2009, recommended the creation of a growth fund to provide a new channel to attract private sector investment into UK SMEs seeking between £2 and £10 million. The pre-Budget report set out how we are taking this forward. The Government are working with a number of banks to establish a Growth Capital Fund that will work for the benefit of the economy and we will be announcing initial investors and fund structure in 2010.

We will take a view on the remit of National Investment Corporation in the New Year in the light of these discussions.

### Overseas Students: English Language

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many places were available on English for Speakers of Other Languages courses for immigrants in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [306000]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]*: Information is not available on the number of places for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses. Providers ensure adequate places are made available to support local demand.

We do, however, publish the number of Learning and Skills Council funded learners participating on a Skills for Life ESOL course in each academic year. Information for 2007/08 and 2008/09 (provisional) was published in a Statistical First Release (SFR) on 22 October 2009 at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09

Updated information for 2008/09 will be published on 17 December 2009.

Information on the number of immigrants enrolling on courses is not available.

In the 2007/08 academic year, there were 2,170 entrants to HE level courses in English as a Second Language. It is not possible to identify how many of these students were immigrants. The level of detail of individual subjects is not consistently recorded by institutions. Subject of study is only required at the subject line level (i.e. Q3 English studies), though some institutions choose to record subjects at a lower level (i.e. Q330 English as a second language). As such, the above figures may undercount the numbers studying "English as a Second Language", as some institutions may have chosen to code as "English studies".

### Prisoners: Loans

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many prisoners received *(a)* a student loan and *(b)* a maintenance grant in each of the last 12 years; and how many of them (i) are in arrears on repayments and (ii) have made no repayment in the last 12 months. [303757]

**Mr. Lammy:** In his written statement on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 85-86WS, on the Education (Student Support) Regulations, the Secretary of State announced that he was amending the student support regulations to disallow prisoners who were also full-time students from receiving financial support for maintenance, thereby removing the long-standing provision which had allowed prisoners to claim such support. Maintenance support for any student who has spent part of a year in prison is reduced pro-rata. Some prisoners, typically those allowed daily release on temporary licence to attend a higher education course, are eligible to receive a loan for tuition fees only.

*Prisoners receiving student loans and grants*[1]

| | | *of which* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Academic year* | *Number receiving a maintenance grant, maintenance loan or tuition fee loan* | *Receiving a maintenance loan* | *Receiving a grant*[2] | *Receiving a tuition fee loan* |
| 1998/99 | — | — | — | — |
| 1999/2000 | 10 | 10 | — | — |
| 2000/01 | 5 | 5 | — | — |
| 2001/02 | 10 | 10 | — | — |
| 2002/03 | 20 | 20 | — | — |
| 2003/04 | 15 | 15 | — | — |
| 2004/05 | 25 | 20 | 10 | — |
| 2005/06 | 35 | 30 | 25 | — |
| 2006/07 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 25 |
| 2007/08 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 25 |
| 2008/09 | 5 | — | — | 5 |

'—' = Nil or less than 3

[1] The figures reflect the number of prisoners in each year who received a payment. Prisoners may have received payments in more than one year. Figures rounded to nearest five.

[2] Mostly maintenance grant or higher education grant, but may also include targeted support allowances.

*Source:*
Student Loans Company

Repayments of income contingent loans, introduced in 1998, are usually collected through the tax system. Borrowers cannot get into arrears (unless they move overseas and do not repay according to the calculated repayment schedule)

Borrowers become liable to repay their student loans in the April after they leave their course (the statutory repayment due date, SRDD). After that date those with earnings of over £15,000 per year will repay, usually by deductions from salary. Those past SRDD and earning less than £15,000 are not required to repay. In the tax year 2007/08 there were 65 borrowers past SRDD who had received loans when in prison. 10 of these made a repayment during the tax year.

### Pupils: Travel

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of students in each local authority area who travel at least 20 miles to their further education college. [304839]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested is not available. To provide it would entail disproportionate costs.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has undertaken analysis of Travel to Learn Patterns for 16 to 18-year-olds at Further Education Providers as part of the work on responsibility for 16 to 19-year-olds transferring to local authorities following the machinery of government changes. This analysis looked at the local authority of the learner and the local authority of their provider. Much of this work has been published on the LSC's website. An example of this analysis, for the East of England, can be found at:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/EastofEngland/whatwedo/14-19TransitionProjects.htm

However, this analysis does not look at the number of miles that a learner travelled to their FE provider.

### Royal Mail: Industrial Disputes

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* parcels sent to members of the armed forces stationed in (i) the UK, (ii) Europe, (iii) Afghanistan and (iv) elsewhere have been delayed as a result of industrial action by Royal Mail postal workers in each month in 2009. [307355]

**Mr. McFadden:** The issue raised is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

I understand however that the Ministry of Defence British Forces Post Office (BFPO) established arrangements with Royal Mail that allowed for mail items to be sent to BFPO oversees addresses throughout the period of industrial unrest.

A copy of Royal Mail's response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Student Loans Company

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of theft and fraud at the Student Loans Company by *(a)* staff and *(b)* students in each of the last five years. [304956]

**Mr. Lammy:** The cost of theft or fraud by staff at the Student Loans Company in each of the last five years is set out in the following table.

| *Financial year* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2009/10 (to date) | 3,178 |
| 2008/09 | 0 |
| 2007/08 | 1,258 |
| 2006/07 | 0 |
| 2005/06 | 0 |
| 2004/05 | 0 |
| Total | 4,436 |

We do not have an estimate of the cost of student-related fraud for the last five years.

In 2005/06 academic year, the Student Loans Company made almost 800,000 payments of grants and loans. A review of identity fraud was conducted by the NHS counter-fraud and security management service, which found an estimated fraud rate of 0.6 per cent. of applications, representing approximately £8.2 million. As a result, a number of improvements have been made to help detect and prevent identity related fraud.

Subsequently, the company assessed the level of income related fraud from a sample of 2008/09 applications and found that the fraud and error rate was between 1 and 4 per cent. The study implies that it should be possible to detect and prevent fraudulent claims worth around £5million, and the company has introduced additional checks on applications made in the 2009/10 academic year.

The company aims to have simple and straightforward processes for students to apply for student support whilst at the same time remaining vigilant in detecting and preventing fraud.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any employees of the Student Loans Company have been subject to disciplinary hearings in respect of allegations of theft or fraud in each of the last five years. [304959]

**Mr. Lammy:** The number of Student Loans Company Ltd. employees who have been subject to disciplinary hearings in respect of allegations of theft or fraud is set out in the following table. I am advised that the hearing in 2005-06 resulted in one employee being dismissed while, prior to the other hearings taking place, the employees concerned resigned.

| *Financial year* | *Number of employees* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10[1] | 1 |
| 2008-09 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 2 |
| 2006-07 | 1 |
| 2005-06 | 1 |
| 2004-05 | 0 |

[1] To date

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were employed by the Student Loans Company in each of the last three years. [307412]

**Mr. Lammy:** The number of people employed by the Student Loans Company in each of the last three years is set out in the following table.

| | *Financial year* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Staff in post* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10 (to date)* |
| Permanent staff | 1,432 | 1,953 | 1,906 |
| Fixed term temporary staff | 21 | 32 | 72 |
| Agency staff | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| Contractors | 19 | 42 | 2 |
| Dept/local authority secondment | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 1,488 | 2,029 | 1,997 |

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent on the salaries of senior management staff at the Student Loans Company in each of the last three years. [307413]

**Mr. Lammy:** The amount spent on the salaries of senior management staff at the Student Loans Company in each of the last three years is publicly available in the Student Loans Company's Annual Report and Accounts. The Annual Report and Accounts for each year are available in the House of Commons Library and to download from the Student Loans Company website at:

http://www.slc.co.uk/about%20us/remit/annual_report.html

### Student Loans Company: Dismissals

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employees of the Student Loans Company have been dismissed following allegations of theft or fraud in each of the last five years. [303184]

**Mr. Lammy:** I am advised that one Student Loans Company employee was dismissed in 2005 following allegations of theft or fraud.

### Student Loans Company: Public Relations

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Student Loans Company (SLC) has spent on public relations (PR) in the last 12 months; and whether the SLC employs an external PR agency. [302505]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Student Loans Company (SLC) spent £83,892 on two staff engaged on public relations (PR) and press office work and consultancy from a PR firm, in the 12 months to 31 October.

### Student Loans Company: Response Handling

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of telephone calls to the Student Loans Company were outsourced to Response Handling in each of the last five years. [303182]

**Mr. Lammy:** The number and proportion of telephone calls to the Student Loans Company outsourced to Response Handling in the last five years are set out in the following table:

| *Financial year* | *2005-07* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Number* | | | | | |
| SLC | 1,580,976 | 1,653,508 | 2,001,720 | 2,314,089 | 1,942,673 |
| Response | 709,016 | 751,392 | 829,662 | 983,963 | 1,316,686 |
| Total | 2,289,992 | 2,404,900 | 2,831,382 | 3,298,032 | 3,259,359 |
| *Percentage* | | | | | |
| SLC | 69.0 | 68.8 | 70.7 | 70.2 | 59.6 |
| Response | 31.0 | 31.2 | 29.3 | 29.8 | 40.4 |

*Notes:*
2009-10 figures are year to date.
2. These figures relate to calls from customers in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Professor Sir Deian Hopkin's review of the delivery of financial support to students in England by the Student Loans Company for the academic year 2009-10 recommended that the company should reconsider its resourcing model for the contact centres. The SLC has accepted this recommendation and is taking urgent steps to implement improvements.

### Student Loans Company: Telephone Services

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff were employed by the Student Loans Company in customer contact roles in each of the last five years; and how many are forecast to be so employed in 2010. [302889]

**Mr. Lammy:** I am advised that the number of SLC staff employed in customer contact roles for the financial years 2004-05 to 2008-09 are as set out in the following table. The resource forecast for financial year 2010-11 has not yet been finalised.

| | *Full-time equivalent* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 546 |
| 2007-08 | 431 |
| 2006-07 | 329 |
| 2005-06 | 309 |
| 2004-05 | 306 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures show the number of SLC permanent and temporary staff employed on customer contact functions in October in each year from 2005 to 2009, including outsourced call handling staff but excluding SLC staff re-assigned temporarily from other duties to help with customer contact in peak periods.
2. Staff deal with contact from potential students and sponsors relating to higher education services in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The figures exclude contact relating to mortgage style loan collection activities and further education services.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments have been made by the Student Loans Company to Response Handling in each of the last five years. [303181]

**Mr. Lammy:** The following payments have been made by the Student Loans Company to Response Handling in each of the last five years for outsourced contact services:

| *Financial Year* | *Amount* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1,183,212 |
| 2005-06 | 1,179,027 |
| 2006-07 | 1,365,867 |
| 2007-08 | 1,905,268 |
| 2008-09 | 1,710,264 |
| 2009-20 | [1]2,291,924 |

[1] 2009-10 figures are year to 31 October 2009.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average time taken to answer a telephone call to *(a)* Student Loans Company helplines and *(b)* calls outsourced to Response Handling was in each of the last 12 months. [303183]

**Mr. Lammy:** The average speed to answer telephone calls relating to Student Finance England (SFE) at the Student Loans Company (SLC) contact centre in each of the last 12 months is indicated in the following table:

*Table 1: SFE calls at SLC Contact Centre*

| | Average speed of answer (Minutes:seconds) |
|---|---|
| Month | |
| *2008* | |
| December | 00:27 |
| *2009* | |
| January | 00:32 |
| February | 01:30 |
| March | 02:29 |
| April | 05:18 |
| May | 04:14 |
| June | 03:44 |
| July | 06:09 |
| August | 10:00 |
| September | 16:41 |
| October | 09:45 |
| November | 04:08 |

Calls are only routed to Response Handling when there is an advisor available to take calls under the terms of the outsourcing arrangement but that means that there are no queues at the outsourced provider and any queuing and wait time is always associated with the SLC in-house contact centre. The average speed to answer an SFE call at Response Handling in each of the last 12 months is indicated in the following table:

*Table 2: SFE calls directed to Response Handling*

| Month | Average speed of answer (Minutes:seconds) |
|---|---|
| *2008* | |
| December | 00:07 |
| *2009* | |
| January | 00:06 |
| February | 00:07 |
| March | 00:04 |
| April | 00:05 |
| May | 00:15 |
| June | 00:13 |
| July | 00:13 |
| August | 00:14 |
| September | 00:15 |
| October | 00:13 |
| November | 00:13 |

*Notes:*

[6] Average Speed of Answer is calculated from when the customer enters the contact centre queue, having completed any prior identification, verification or other menu options on the IVR (interactive voice response system,) and ends when an agent answers.

[7] Response Handling outsourcing was utilised to answer SFE related application calls only.

[8] Although the figures provided are for SFE related calls only, SLC in-house Contact Centre resource is utilised across a range of services covering customers with applications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and borrowers across the UK.

Professor Sir Deian Hopkin's review of the delivery of financial support to students in England by the Student Loans Company for the academic year 2009-10 recommended that the company should reconsider its resourcing model for the contact centres. The SLC has accepted this recommendation and is taking urgent steps to implement improvements.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been raised through helpline charges by the Student Loans Company in each year between 2004-05 and 2009-10; and what proportion of such funds was raised from calls which were *(a)* answered by a person and *(b)* unanswered in each such year. [304453]

**Mr. Lammy:** The information provided by the Student Loans Company (SLC) is set out in the following table:

*SLC revenue from telephone charges by financial year*

| *Financial year* | *Telephone charge revenue amount (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 96 |
| 2005-06 | 283 |
| 2006-07 | 283 |
| 2007-08 | 332 |
| 2008-09 | 447 |
| 2009-10 (to end October 2009) | 265 |

The split for revenue by calls answered/abandoned is not held.

These figures are in the context of the SLC's net telephone expenditure as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Net telephone expenditure (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 970 |
| 2005-06 | 990 |
| 2006-07 | 838 |
| 2007-08 | 519 |
| 2008-09 | 459 |
| 2009-10 (to end October 2009) | 307 |

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions representatives of his Department have had with the Student Loans Company (SLC) during 2009 on a geographical telephone number for enquiries to the SLC. [304454]

**Mr. Lammy:** Ministers and officials are in regular contact with the Student Loans Company (SLC) on a wide range of issues, including telephones. During 2009 there have been no discussions specifically about a geographical phone number for inquiries to the SLC.

## Students

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of students studying for a foundation degree in *(a)* university and *(b)* college are from a widening participation background; and if he will make a statement. [303717]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest figures from the Higher Education Funding Council for England are provided in the table.

Figures are provided for UK-domiciled full-time and part-time foundation degree entrants from low participation neighbourhoods to English higher education institutions and further education colleges.

The proportion of entrants from low participation neighbourhoods (LPNs) is one measure which the Department uses to monitor widening participation in higher education, along with socio-economic classification and the proportion of entrants from state school. LPNs are defined as wards which are ranked in the bottom 20 per cent. with regard to participation rates of young people (under 21) in higher education. LPNs have been used as a preferred measure of widening participation in this answer due to the high level of unknown data for socio-economic classification (approximately 50 per cent.) and proportion of entrants from state schools (approximately 40 per cent.) for foundation degree entrants.

Foundation degrees are part of a range of measures, including more part-time study, more work-based study and more fast-track degrees that we are utilising in order to attract a greater diversity of students. Widening participation in higher education is about identifying and nurturing talent, wherever it is found, with schools, colleges and higher education institutions working together to ensure that all those with the ability and potential to benefit from higher education are able and prepared to do so.

*UK-domicile foundation degree entrants from low participation neighbourhoods (LPNs), English HEIs and FECs, Academic year 2007-08*

| | | *Full-time* | | *Part-time* | | *Total* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Institution type* | *Age group* | *Number entrants* | *Percentage from LPN* | *Number entrants* | *Percentage from LPN* | *Number entrants* | *Percentage from LPN* |
| FEC | Young | 2,805 | 29 | 405 | 20 | 3,210 | 28 |
| | Mature | 3,085 | 27 | 2,365 | 24 | 5,450 | 26 |
| HEI | Young | 7,085 | 17 | 955 | 20 | 8,040 | 17 |
| | Mature | 7,770 | 16 | 10,260 | 17 | 18,030 | 17 |
| Unknown | | 3,130 | — | 3,020 | — | 6,150 | |
| Total | | 23,870 | | 17,010 | | 40,880 | |

Notes:

1. Institution type refers to the institution the student is registered with.
2. 'Unknowns' includes those with unknown postcode or date of birth.
3. 'Young' refers to students under the age of 21 at the commencement of their course.
4. 'Mature' refers to students aged 21 and over at the commencement of their course.
5. HEI: Higher education institution, FEC: Further education college
6. The numbers in the table have been derived using area groupings which are different to the latest POLAR methodology used to calculate some of the Performance Indicators in Higher Education (published by HESA).

## Students: Disabled

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of applications for disabled students allowance in the academic year 2009-10 which were refused have been appealed against; and what proportion of appeals were upheld. [307713]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 15 December 2009]*: Continuing students will apply for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSAs) through their local authority (LA) and will appeal to that LA where an application has been refused.

For academic year 2009/10, the Student Loans Company (SLC) is responsible for processing applications for DSAs only from new students. I am advised SLC has not received any appeals from those who have submitted unsuccessful applications for DSA.

## Students: Finance

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1241W, on students: finance, which stakeholders his Department will consult. [308809]

**Mr. Lammy:** The review has launched its first call for evidence, asking for views on the current system of higher education funding and the key trends the review should be considering when thinking about future policy. All those with an interest in higher education are encouraged to submit evidence in this process.

The review has also had the first meeting of its advisory forum, which is made up of key stakeholders from business, academia and student groups. A list of organisations represented on the advisory forum can be found on the review's website.

## Students: Loans

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints regarding the time taken to process disabled students allowance applications have been received by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Student Loans Company in the last 12 months. [302888]

**Mr. Lammy:** In the last 12 months, the Department has received 34 complaints in this category. The Student Loans Company does not separately categorise complaints about applications for Disabled Students' Allowances.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost was of designing and implementing the integrated applications system for student loans introduced in September 2008. [302890]

**Mr. Lammy:** Changes required to deliver the new Student Finance (England) service are due to be phased in over a number of years. The total cost of designing and implementing the system between financial years

2006-07 and 2011-12 is expected to be £48.7 million, of which £33.3 million had been spent at the end of financial year 2008-09.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Students Loans Company has received from universities seeking reimbursement of emergency loans issued to students. [303180]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department has not received any representations from universities seeking reimbursement of emergency loans to students. Neither has the Student Loans Company.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of *(a)* outstanding student loans held and *(b)* student loan repayments made by students from (i) the UK, (ii) other EU member states and (iii) non-EU countries in each of the last five years. [303590]

**Mr. Lammy:** The information requested is as follows:

*Loan balance outstanding and repayments*

*£ million*

| *Financial Year* | *Loan balance outstanding including loans not yet due for repayment*[1] | *Repayments posted to SLC accounts during financial year* |
|---|---|---|
| *English domicile* | | |
| 2004-05 | 13,033.4 | 417.3 |
| 2005-06 | 15,321.7 | 481.6 |
| 2006-07 | 18,106.7 | 529.8 |
| 2007-08 | 21,902.2 | 633.0 |
| 2008-09 | 25,867.0 | 897.6 |
| *EU domicile* | | |
| 2006-07 | 9.7 | [2]— |
| 2007-08 | 42.1 | 0.5 |
| 2008-09 | 96.8 | 2.0 |

[1] Loan balance at the end of the financial year

[2] Less than 100,000

*Source:*

Student Loans Company

The table shows those who at the time of their application for student support were either English domiciled students studying in the UK, or who were EU students studying in England.

Students from non-EU countries are not generally eligible for support. However, EEA migrant workers and certain family members, children of Swiss nationals and children of Turkish workers may be eligible. Such students are entitled to apply for the full student support package, and are included in the English domicile part of the table.

EU students who have taken out tuition fee loans only, (introduced in academic year 2006-07), are shown in the EU domicile part of the table. Most EU loan borrowers are still at university and therefore not yet required to begin repaying their loans. A borrower who started a typical three year course in 2006-07 will become liable to begin repaying in April 2010.

Most income contingent loan repayments are collected through the tax system. The SLC are notified of repayments after the end of the tax year. This means that, for example, repayments shown in financial year 2008-09 mostly relate to repayments made in tax year 2007-08. Repayments made via the tax system in tax year 2008-09 are not reflected in the table. The figures include repayments made directly to the SLC from borrowers living overseas and from borrowers who have chosen to repay more than the regulatory amount.

The SLC has robust measures in place to collect loan repayments from EU Students. Those staying in the UK are expected to obtain a National Insurance Number (NINO) and make repayments through the UK tax system. But those borrowers who move and default on their loans will be traced and, where appropriate, legal action will be taken.

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he expects all outstanding student loan applications to be processed by 31 December 2009. [305795]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* I have been advised that Student Finance England cleared the backlog of correspondence by 11 December 2009 and I have sought clarification of this from the chief executive of the Student Loans Company. The Student Loans Company is still receiving around 1,500 new applications each week.

There are students in the system who still need to provide all the necessary evidence for their application to be completed. This includes people claiming disabled students' allowance who are still awaiting their assessments. I have instructed the SLC to work swiftly to contact students and assessment centres in universities to process all outstanding cases as quickly as possible.

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of second instalment student loans he expects to be paid by 28 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [305796]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* It is not clear whether the question relates to maintenance or tuition fee loans.

Of the applications processed so far, there are currently 741,376 second maintenance loan instalments relating to Student Finance England scheduled for payment between 24 December and 31 January.

These figures exclude payment of grants.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms are in place to ensure that students in higher education receive their tuition fee and maintenance loans before their course commences. [307409]

**Mr. Lammy:** Students cannot receive maintenance loans or grants before their course commences. Once the university has confirmed the student's attendance, payment is made through the Bankers' Automated Clearing System (BACS). Tuition fees are paid directly to Higher Education Institutions on behalf of students in two equal instalments during the academic year.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the budget of the Student Loans Company has been in each of the last three years. [307410]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Student Loans Company's UK budget is set out in an Annual Performance and Resource Agreement letter, the most recent of which is available to download from the Student Loans Company website at:

http://www.slc.co.uk/about%20us/remit/index.html

The UK budget for the last three years has been as follows:

| *Financial year* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 75.7 |
| 2008-09 | 86.7 |
| 2009-10 | 98.1 |

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what powers the Government has to alter the management *(a)* structure and *(b)* personnel of the Student Loans Company. [307411]

**Mr. Lammy:** Governance arrangements agreed between the Administrations of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland and the Student Loans Company (SLC) are set out in the SLC's Framework Document which is available in the House of Commons Library and also on the Student Loans Company's website at:

http://www.slc.co.uk/about%20us/remit/index.html

Ministers appoint the Chair and Non-Executive Directors of the SLC Board and approve the appointment by the Board of the Chief Executive Officer. Other Executive Director appointments are a matter for the SLC Board.

### Students: Radicalism

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 507W, on students: radicalism, which institutions will receive further targeted support in the new academic year. [307744]

**Mr. Lammy:** The list of which institutions will receive further targeted support will be finalised in February 2010. I will write to the hon. Member with the list once it has been finalised.

### UK Trade and Investment: Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what redesigns of websites operated by UK Trade and Investment have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306204]

**Ian Lucas:** £42,000 was spent redeveloping the former MOD Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) website when the organisation became UKTI Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) in April 2008. The work on the website:

www.dso.uktradeinvest.gov.uk

was completed in May 2008.

### Vocational Training: West Midlands

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to maintain a high skills level in the West Midlands. [307313]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Government are taking a range of measures to maintain a high skills level in the West Midlands and across the country as a whole.

On 3 November Government published "Higher Ambitions: the future of universities in the Knowledge economy". It sets out the priorities for the Government's approach to higher education (HE) over the next 10 years. Public funding for HE has increased by over 25 per cent. from 1997-98 to 2008-09 in real terms. We now have a third of the population with Level 4 plus qualification compared to less than a quarter in 1997.

We also published the "Skills for Growth" White Paper on 11 November. This is our National Skills Strategy which sets out a number of new commitments, including:

> Renewal of commitment to the basic targets set out by the 2006 Leitch report for improving the skills level of the nation.
>
> A new ambition for three quarters of young people to participate in higher education or complete a technician or equivalent course by the age of 30.
>
> A new approach to anticipate and respond to future skills needs for economic prosperity and social mobility whilst continuing to respond to the "here and now" of employers and learners.
>
> Expanding apprenticeships to create a modern class of technicians, with 35,000 more advanced apprenticeships and progression routes for apprentices into HE.
>
> Improve quality of provision, empowering learners with greater choice; giving more autonomy to colleges and training institutions that deliver excellence; and cutting lower priority courses.

In our Skills Investment Strategy, published on the 16 November, we set out how we will fund skills training in the academic year 2010-11. It outlines that:

> We will increase funding for adult apprenticeships to £400 million which includes increased support for advanced apprenticeships for 19-30 year-olds in line with the commitments in Skills for Growth for an additional 35,000 places over the next two years.
>
> We will continue our investment to provide vital training and employability skills to support those out of work into sustainable employment, particularly through the six month offer and young person's guarantee.
>
> We will also continue to support the delivery of statutory entitlements that give adults the opportunity to gain the basic skills for employability including literacy and numeracy skills.

## TREASURY

### Banks: Finance

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* UK Financial Investments and *(b)* HM Treasury is undertaking currency cover in respect of the £170 billion of foreign currency loans covered by its underwriting for Royal Bank of Scotland. [307151]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** United Kingdom Financial Investments does not have the remit to undertake currency cover in respect of foreign currency loans.

The Treasury does not normally buy insurance against risk.

## Civil Service: Location

**Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on compensatory steps to reduce the economic effects of transferring further Civil Service posts away from Croydon. [304986]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 9 December 2009]*: The Government's existing property strategy requires all new acquisitions, lease renewals and break clauses to seek my approval to stay in London and the south-east. This ensures that in reaching a decision, I can assess the implications of the case for remaining in London and the south-east or for relocating to another part of the country.

Where necessary Treasury Ministers will discuss relocation issues with ministerial colleagues.

## Climate Change Levy: Agriculture

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the expenditure on energy efficiency measures by the *(a)* horticulture, *(b)* pig and *(c)* poultry industry which was funded by receipts under the Climate Change Levy to the Carbon Trust. [307501]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

My right hon. Friend has made no such estimate. However, the Carbon Trust (CT) offers energy efficiency advice and surveys in respect of all agricultural sectors including horticulture, and the pig and poultry industries, and publishes a wide range of advice on their website with self help guidance and fact sheets including specific sections for:

Poultry meat

Pigs

Protected horticulture

In 2007-08 CT also funded the Grow Save programme—run by the Horticultural Development Board—which helps growers reduce the energy consumption of greenhouses.

These activities were funded by Carbon Trust's core government grant as well as other sources of income

## Companies: Crown Dependencies and British Overseas Territories

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies and trusts are registered in each of the UK Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories. [307354]

**Chris Bryant:** I have been asked to reply.

The registration of companies and trusts in the Overseas Territories is the responsibility of their financial authorities. Their contact details are as follows:

| | *Contact detail* |
|---|---|
| Anguilla: | info@fsc.org.ai |
| Bermuda: Registrar of Companies: | slowe@gov.bm |
| Bermuda Monetary Authority: | trust@bma.bm |
| British Virgin Islands: | commissioner@bvifsc.vg |
| Cayman Islands: | cima@cimoney.com.ky |
| Gibraltar: Registrar of Companies: | mail@companieshouse.gi |
| Financial Services Commission: | info@fsc.gi |
| Montserrat: | fsccomm@candw.ms |
| Turks and Caicos Islands: | khiggins@tcifsc.tc |

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the relationship between the United Kingdom and the Crown Dependencies. The contact details for their regulatory authorities are:

| | *Contact detail* |
|---|---|
| Guernsey: | info@gfsc.gg |
| Jersey: | info@jerseyfsc.org |
| Isle of Man: | john.aspden@fsc.gov.im |

## Council Tax: Valuation

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 662W, on council tax: valuation, whether the council tax banding support tool will be linked with the Valuation Office Agency's Geographical Information System; and whether the tool utilises *(a)* dwellingcode and value significant code data and *(b)* analysis derived from the Automated Valuation Model. [305750]

**Ian Pearson:** There will be no direct link between the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA's) council tax banding support tool and its Geographic Information System when the latter is implemented.

An automated selection process within the banding support tool identifies properties which are closely comparable to a given subject property. This process makes use of *(a)* dwelling house code data (i.e. property details), which includes value significant code data; but not *(b)* analysis derived from the VOA's Automated Valuation Models.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 840W, on council tax: valuation, how many times the Valuation Office Agency has reduced the council tax banding of a dwelling due to the presence of a nearby Traveller encampment in the last 12 months. [307066]

**Ian Pearson:** The information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

## Crown Estate Commissioners: Conferences

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Crown Estate's buildings attended by civil servants in the Crown Estate there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307462]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Employees of The Crown Estate are not civil servants.

### Crown Estate Commissioners: Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Crown Estate has spent on hotel accommodation for its officials in each of the last five years. [306033]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Expenditure on hotel accommodation for Crown Estate officials in the last five years is as follows:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 25 |
| 2005-06 | 23 |
| 2006-07 | 40 |
| 2007-08 | 43 |
| 2008-09 | 87 |

### Departmental Energy

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the energy efficiency rating is of each of his Department's buildings in London. [307420]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 585W.

### Dubai Ports World

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely level of financial exposure of the Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group to Dubai World debt. [307157]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Treasury is unable to disclose such information as it is commercially sensitive.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether UK Financial Investments is seeking representation on the Dubai World creditors' committee. [307159]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** In line with its Investment Mandate, agreed with Treasury, and the Institutional Shareholders' Committee Statement of Principles, UKFI acts as an engaged and informed institutional shareholder for the banks in which Government have shareholdings.

Day to day management of the banks' business is a matter for the banks' boards.

### Economic Situation

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of a new independent body to undertake fiscal forecasts on interest rates. [305559]

**Ian Pearson:** As announced in the pre-Budget report, the Government have introduced a Fiscal Responsibility Bill to enhance the fiscal framework put in place in 1997, by increasing Parliament's role in debating and approving the Government's medium-term fiscal plans.

### Equitable Life Ex-gratia Payment Scheme Review

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations his Department has made to Sir John Chadwick in respect of the *(a)* methods by which the Equitable Life compensation scheme is to be administered and *(b)* criteria by which compensation is to be awarded. [307247]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The Government's response to Sir John Chadwick's interim report of June 2009, in which he invited comments on the specific issues he should address in carrying out his work, was published by Sir John along with other representations made to him in August 2009. The document can be viewed on his website at:

http://www.chadwick-office.org/documents.asp

The Government's representations with regard to his interim report of August 2009, in which he invited comment on his proposals on approaching the assessment of relative loss he should adopt, will be published shortly and will be available at:

http://www.chadwick-office.org/documents.asp

### Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cars registered in the UK were eligible for Band A vehicle excise duty in the latest period for which figures are available. [307034]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** As of June 2009, 9,100 cars were licensed in Band A of $CO_2$-based vehicle excise duty.

### Housing: Energy

**John Battle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for further consultation on economic measures to encourage residential sector energy efficiency. [306987]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Government will shortly consult on an extension to the end of 2012 of its flagship home energy efficiency programme, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), from its current end date of April 2011. During its current 2008-11 phase, CERT will drive an estimated £3.2 billion investment in home insulation and other energy saving measures to meet a target of 185 MtCO2 lifetime savings. The new 21-month target will be at least as ambitious as the current scheme on a pro rata basis.

The Government also offer other incentives for energy efficiency including:

reduced rates of VAT (5 per cent.) for the professional installation of certain energy saving products within residential properties, including insulation,

a stamp duty relief for new zero-carbon homes, and

the Landlords Energy Savings Allowance, which offers an incentive of up to £1,500 per dwelling for landlords investing in installing specified energy saving items.

### Income Tax: Pensioners

**John Battle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the number of pensioners living in Leeds West constituency who pay income tax. [306984]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not available, however the information on the number of taxpayers paying income tax on their pension income by constituency can be found in table 3.15 "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency" available at:

http://hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#315

Information on the number of pensioner taxpayers by gender, region and country can be found in table 3.12 "Income and tax for individuals of pension age by gender and country" available at:

http://www.hmnrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#312

Estimates are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, of which 2006-07 is currently the latest available.

Any inference from the information in table 3.15 should take into account the confidence intervals in table 3.15a "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency. Confidence Intervals", available at the above web address.

**John Battle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the income tax receipts to the Exchequer from pension income in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [306986]

**Mr. Timms:** The estimate of income tax from all pension income in 2009-10 is £12.1 billion. This figure is based on the 2006-07 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward to 2009-10 in line with the 2009 pre-Budget report.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what mechanism the Valuation Office Agency assesses the value of petrol filling stations. [307258]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 583W.

### Public Service Agreements

**Chloe Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on co-ordination of progress in the achievement of Public Service Agreement targets by Government departments. [304985]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 9 December 2009]:* The Chief Secretary to the Treasury has ministerial responsibility for public service reform, delivery and performance, including public service agreements (PSAs).

Within the Treasury, the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU) co-ordinates, monitors and reports on progress in relation to the achievement of PSAs. The PMDU reports jointly to the Prime Minister and to the Chancellor and works closely with Downing Street, HM Treasury, the Cabinet Office and a range of other Departments.

As part of their ministerial responsibilities, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Chancellor have ongoing discussions on the co-ordination of progress in the achievement of PSAs by Government Departments.

Progress on PSAs is reported to Parliament in the Departmental Annual Reports and the Autumn Performance Report.

### Tax Allowances: Freight

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing an essential user rebate system for UK road hauliers; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such a rebate if by this means diesel costs to UK road hauliers were reduced in effect to the EU average. [306962]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** EU law does not allow for a reduced fuel duty rate just for hauliers. A reduced rate for commercial vehicles would be allowable. However, this would have significant Exchequer costs and in this time of fiscal consolidation such expenditure and fiscal risk would not be appropriate. The difficulties of such a proposal (given that fuel duty is charged on supplies) would lead to significant complexity and administrative costs for Government and industry, and risk fraud and evasion.

### Tax Enquiry Centres

**Mr. Tom Clarke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to ensure that changes in the opening times at tax enquiry centres do not adversely affect *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people with disabilities and *(c)* other vulnerable groups less likely to use the internet or the telephone. [306467]

**Mr. Timms:** I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 855W. An Equality Impact Assessment of changes to Enquiry Centre opening hours will be published prior to any changes being made.

### Taxation: Domicile

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people gave up non-domiciled tax status in the last tax year; and what mechanism exists for removing such status. [304672]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 7 December 2009]:* Information on the number of individuals who declared a non-UK domicile status to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in 2007/08, but declared themselves to be UK domiciled in 2008-09 is obtainable only at disproportionate cost, as manual checks of free text boxes on self-assessment tax returns for those years would be needed to establish this.

Individuals generally acquire their father's domicile at birth. This can be changed after the age of 16 by showing that they have chosen to live permanently in another country to the one they are domiciled in. It is a matter of fact and degree whether this choice is sufficient to alter domicile status.

The individual will need to show that they live in the other country and intend to remain there permanently or indefinitely. It is for the person asserting the change of domicile to prove this. Each case depends upon its facts, and is a matter of general law rather than tax law.

### Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations his Department and HM Revenue and Customs have received from operators of long-term residential lets *(a)* on the equity of the system of furnished holiday lettings relief extended to operators of self-catering holiday properties and *(b)* seeking the abolition of such relief. [307292]

**Mr. Timms:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1413W, to the hon. Member for Montgomeryshire (Lembit Öpik).

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs took to determine the range of services characteristically offered by providers of self-contained accommodation prior to reaching the conclusion that the services and facilities provided by self-catering operators in receipt of furnished holiday lettings relief are not appropriate to secure classification as a trade. [307294]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs' guidance explains the difference between trade and property business, based on the legislation and the courts1 interpretation of it. In the past the courts have decided that income from furnished holiday letting is not normally a trade.

### VAT: Gaming Machines

**Mr. Ian Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will waive the back payments of value added tax and gaming machine duty on category B3A gaming machines owed by not-for-profit sports and social clubs. [306355]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** There is no legal basis for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to waive tax that is properly due.

Some not-for-profit sports and social clubs are disputing HMRC's tax treatment of electronic lottery (category B3A) gaming machines, and tribunal cases are pending about that. It would not be appropriate to comment further until the outcome of those cases is known.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the number of families in each ward of Leeds West constituency who are in receipt of *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit. [307083]

**Mr. Timms:** The following table shows, for each ward within the Metropolitan Borough of Leeds, as at 1 April 2009, estimates for the number of households benefiting from tax credits.

Due to small sample sizes, separate information on the number of households receiving working tax credits and child tax credits in each ward is not available. However, estimates of the number of families benefiting, by award type; for each local authority and parliamentary constituency are provided in the HM Revenue and Customs snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2009". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

| *Ward* | *Number of households in receipt of tax credits* |
|---|---:|
| Adel and Wharfedale | 1,300 |
| Alwoodley | 1,700 |
| Ardsley and Robin Hood | 2,400 |
| Armley | 3,200 |
| Beeston and Holbeck | 2,800 |
| Bramley and Stanningley | 3,000 |
| Burmantofts and Richmond Hill | 3,400 |
| Calverley and Parsley | 2,000 |
| Chapel Allerton | 2,700 |
| City and Hunslet | 2,200 |
| Cross Gates and Whinmoor | 2,400 |
| Farnley and Wortley | 3,000 |
| Garforth and Swillington | 2,000 |
| Gipton and Harehills | 3,900 |
| Guiseley and Rawdon | 2,000 |
| Harewood | 900 |
| Headingley | 300 |
| Horsforth | 1,600 |
| Hyde Park and Woodhouse | 1,300 |
| Killingbeck and Seacroft | 3,500 |
| Kippax and Methley | 2,200 |
| Kirkstall | 1,900 |
| Middleton Park | 3,800 |
| Moortown | 1,800 |
| Morley North | 2,300 |
| Morley South | 2,400 |
| Otley and Yeadon | 2,200 |
| Pudsey | 2,200 |
| Rothwell | 1,900 |
| Roundhay | 1,900 |
| Temple Newsam | 2,600 |
| Weetwood | 1,300 |
| Wetherby | 1,200 |

### Welfare Tax Credits: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in City of York have had their tax credits increased in the last 12 months as a result of their earned income falling; and by what average weekly amount such tax credits rose. [307403]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs estimate that, as of 1 November 2009, 1.000 families in the City of York have benefited from an increased Tax Credits award, worth an average of £37 per week, as a consequence of their total income having fallen since the beginning of the 2009-10 tax year.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Animal Experiments: Licensing

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in force in Wales at the end of 2008 were in the *(a)* mild, *(b)* moderate, *(c)* substantial and *(d)* unclassified severity banding. [306297]

**Meg Hillier:** During 2008, in Wales, 61 per cent. of the project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were in the mild severity banding, 39 per cent. in moderate, there were none in substantial or unclassified.

### Animal Experiments: Wales

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 which were conducted in Wales in 2008 were conducted for *(a)* fundamental and applied studies other than toxicology and *(b)* toxicity tests or other safety and efficacy evaluation. [306293]

**Meg Hillier:** All the scientific procedures on living animals started in 2008 in Wales under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 related to fundamental and applied studies other than toxicology.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 which were conducted in Wales in 2008 involved *(a)* cats, *(b)* dogs, *(c)* rabbits, *(d)* horses and other equids, *(e)* New World primates and *(f)* Old World primates which (i) were genetically modified and (ii) had a harmful genetic defect. [306294]

**Meg Hillier:** In 2008 there were no such procedures in Wales nor in Great Britain as a whole (Table three, Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2008, available from the Library of the House—HC800).

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* mice, *(b)* rats, *(c)* guinea pigs, *(d)* hamsters, *(e)* rabbits, *(f)* horses and other equids, *(g)* sheep, *(h)* pigs, *(i)* birds, *(j)* amphibians, *(k)* reptiles, *(l)* fish, *(m)* cats, *(n)* dogs, *(o)* New World primates and *(p)* Old World primates were used in procedures conducted in Wales and regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2008. [306295]

**Meg Hillier:** In line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (implementing the Statistics and Registration Act 2007), and the National Statistician's guidance "Confidentiality of Official Statistics", the information requested is not available. Providing the information requested would breach statistical confidentiality relating to individual establishments.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual animals were used in procedures regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Wales in 2008. [306296]

**Meg Hillier:** During 2008, in Wales, there were 48,507 animals used in scientific procedures on living animals started under the 1986 Act.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of procedures regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 carried out in Wales in 2008 were conducted without anaesthesia. [306298]

**Meg Hillier:** During 2008, in Wales, 52 per cent. of the scientific procedures on living animals started under the 1986 Act used no form of anaesthesia.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many project licences in respect of work to be carried out in Wales were granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2008; and how many such project licences were in force at the end of 2008. [306300]

**Meg Hillier:** During 2008 23 project licences were granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Wales. On 31 December 2008 there were 77 project licences in force in Wales.

### Assaults On Police

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what records are kept of the number of cautions issued for assault on a police officer. [306362]

**Maria Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice Cautions Database holds records of each caution, reprimand and warning issued, and reported by police forces, in England and Wales. In each case the offender's gender and age are recorded along with some limited information on ethnicity. The database holds a record of the police force area in which the caution was issued and the offence for which the caution was given. Information is reported centrally on this basis (including records on the number of cautions issued for assault on a constable) irrespective of the nature of the offence.

The number of cautions issued in England and Wales in 2007 (latest available) for "assault on a constable" under section 89(1) of the Police Act 1996 is 2,183.

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

### Asylum

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Southern Sudanese people with refugee status or awaiting a decision on their status there are in the UK. [307093]

**Mr. Woolas:** The requested information relating to Southern Sudanese nationals is not collated separately. Further, information on asylum applicants awaiting an initial decision, by nationality or sub-region, is unavailable and could only be obtained by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2008 and statistics for Q3 2009 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

### Asylum: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers living in *(a)* the City of York and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber received support from public funds in each year since 2002. [304506]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table shows the number of asylum seekers in receipt of support in City of York and Yorkshire and the Humber at the end of each year between 2002 and 2008.

Information on immigration and asylum, including asylum seekers in receipt of support, are published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics and the latest statistics for Q3 2009 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

*Number of asylum seekers[1] [2], including dependants, in receipt of support, in York and Yorkshire and the Humber, 2002-08, as at end of December[3]*

| | Subsistence only | Accommodation and subsistence[4] | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| *York:* | | | |
| 2002 | 20 | 5 | 25 |
| 2003 | 25 | 5 | 30 |
| 2004 | 15 | 5 | 15 |
| 2005 | 5 | — | 5 |
| 2006 | * | — | * |
| 2007 | * | — | * |
| 2008 | 5 | — | 5 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | | | |
| 2002 | 800 | 10,215 | 11,015 |
| 2003 | 855 | 9,920 | 10,775 |
| 2004 | 660 | 9,370 | 10,030 |
| 2005 | 375 | 7,645 | 8,020 |
| 2006 | 305 | 7,750 | 8,055 |
| 2007 | 325 | 7,095 | 7,420 |
| 2008 | 230 | 4,405 | 4,640 |

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown due to independent rounding.

[2] Excludes unaccompanied asylum seeking children and those in initial accommodation.

[3] Provisional figures.

[4] Includes disbenefited cases.

### Databases: EC Law

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the data breach notification requirements in the EU E-privacy Directive will be transposed into UK law; what sanctions are available under current law against organisations or individuals who breach data privacy; and if he will make a statement. [306537]

**Mr. Timms:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department was pleased at the successful conclusion to the two year review of the European Electronic Communications Framework last month. This included adoption of the so-called citizen's rights amending directive which improves existing regulations on privacy and electronic communications (Directive 2002/58/EC). Officials in BIS are embarking on a major consultation and transposition exercise that will see these revisions, including the new requirements for data breach notification, implemented into UK law over the next 18 months.

These revisions introduce a new, specific definition of "personal data breach", which includes accidental loss; and the article on data security has been significantly expanded to address issues of access to, storage of, transmission and processing of such personnel data. The competent national authority (Information Commissioner's Office) will now be able to audit the security policies of operators and any breach of personal data requirements will have to be notified to the authority and individuals concerned.

At the current time, organisations and individuals can be subject to enforcement orders and sanctions under the provisions of the Data Protection Act (DP A) 1998, following prosecution in a magistrates or crown court (£5,000 in the former, unlimited in the latter). In 2010, provisions of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 take effect whereby the Information Commissioner could also issue a monetary penalty for a breach of data privacy provisions in that Act.

The revised e-Privacy Directive contains a new article which specifically addresses investigation and enforcement of the improved regime and provides for penalties, including criminal sanctions, that are both proportionate and dissuasive. The Department will be consulting consumers, operators and other stakeholders on developing this regime over the next 18 months.

### Departmental Art Works

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on art works in the last 12 months. [306441]

**Mr. Woolas:** There has been no expenditure on art by the Department at its HQ at 2 Marsham street over the last 12 months. Information on any possible expenditure on art elsewhere is not held centrally.

### Departmental Legal Costs

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure his Department and its agencies have incurred on external legal advice and representation in each year since 1997; and for what purposes such professional services have been commissioned. [300576]

**Mr. Woolas:** The requested detail for years 1996-97 to 2001-02 is not available. However, the Department's expenditure on external legal services for 2002-03 to 2008-09 is set out in the following table.

Home Office numbers for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07 include the National Offenders Management Service and the Office of Criminal Justice Reform which transferred from the Home Office to Ministry of Justice on nine

May 2007. These costs could not be identified separately without incurring disproportionate cost.

This figure does not include the cost to the Home Office of litigation or other legal services provided by the Treasury Solicitor or elsewhere within Government.

The purposes for which such services have been commissioned relate principally to legal advice, such as advice on commercial projects.

Legal costs are incurred in accordance with guidance, issued by Attorney-General, on what constitutes core Government business and the use of the private sector for government legal work.

*Home Office expenditure on external legal services.*

*£ thousand*

| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Home Office | 10,067 | 11,505 | 17,362 | 28,075 | 23,614 | 2,856 | 2,229 |
| Identity and Passport Service | 98 | 292 | 363 | 766 | 1,214 | 3,460 | 3,880 |
| Criminal Records Bureau | 0 | 0 | 8 | 35 | 29 | 25 | 97 |

## Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there has been any nugatory cost to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies arising from tendered procurement in circumstances where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last five years. [303713]

**Mr. Woolas:** From best available records in the last five years the Home Department and its executive agencies have not incurred any nugatory bid costs from suppliers where tender processes have been cancelled prior to the award of contract. Nugatory costs for staff time and other associated costs are not recorded centrally and a search of individual records for any available information could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Rail Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301207]

**Alan Johnson:** I last travelled by train on Tuesday, 1 December 2009.

## Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* his Department and [illegible] its agencies spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the (i) subject and (ii) location of each away day was. [306759]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Home Office accounting system does not separately identify expenditure on staff away days. To provide the requested detail would incur disproportionate cost.

## Detention Centres

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many transfers of detainees between immigration detention centres have been made in each month in 2009. [301237]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table shows the number of transfers from one immigration removal centre to another of individuals detained under Immigration Act powers.

| *Month of transfer* | *Number of transfers* |
|---|---|
| January 2009 | 1,180 |
| February 2009 | 1,317 |
| March 2009 | 1,632 |
| April 2009 | 1,344 |
| May 2009 | 1,326 |
| June 2009 | 1,522 |
| July 2009 | 1,567 |
| August 2009 | 1,951 |
| September 2009 | 1,622 |
| October 2009 | 1,668 |
| Total | 15,129 |

The data are management information only and have not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. These figures are provisional and are subject to change.

National Statistics on persons held in detention solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins. These are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Tables 8a and 8b of the Second Quarter 2009 Summary includes, from January 2009, the number of people entering detention.

The UK Border Agency seeks to minimise movements within the detention estate in the interests of providing a settled regime and the efficient use of escorting resources. Movement of detainees around the estate is required for operational reasons, most often to:

Position detainees close to airports prior to removal

Position detainees for court appearances

Position detainees for hospital appointments

Position detainees for embassy/documentation interviews

To facilitate the movement of detainees to more secure locations for security/behavioural reasons.

Ensure that bed space capacity in all 11 immigration removal centres are fully utilised.

## Foreign Workers

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effects of numerical limits on temporary migration. [300489]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Government's view is that a numerical limit, or 'cap', on temporary migration is not the most effective way of managing migration. Rather, our view is that the points based system is the best and most robust way of controlling the numbers of people coming to the UK from outside Europe without preventing the admission of migrants with specific skills that the UK economy needs.

We have already demonstrated the system's flexibility through putting a stop to low skilled labour entering the UK from outside Europe by suspending Tier three, as well as well as tightening up labour market testing requirements for Tier 2.

### Hacking

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what co-operation is taking place with other governments to facilitate best practice in countering hacking of computer systems; and if he will make a statement. [306538]

**Alan Johnson:** The Government take attacks on computer systems very seriously, and recognise that the problem is an international one. We work bilaterally and through multi-lateral institutions to ensure that there is an agreed international approach to tackling this crime.

We are working with the Council of Europe to ratify the Cybercrime Convention, as well as with the European Union and the G8. Law enforcement agencies such as the Serious Organised Crime Agency work closely with their international counterparts to tackle cross-border cyber crime.

### Internet: Children

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to enable children to use the internet in a safe manner. [306323]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* The Government launched the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) in September 2008, to bring together Government, industry, charities, law enforcement and others to collectively work to help children stay safe online.

We have now launched the UKCCIS strategy, "Click Clever Click Safe", which sets out what is being done to keep children safe online. This is the first strategy of this kind produced anywhere in the world, and was launched alongside our online version of the Green Cross Code: "Zip it, Block it, Flag it". We want to see the digital code become as familiar as "Stop, Look, Listen." We believe that this work, across a number of sectors, will help children to stay safe online.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to educate children on best practices on internet usage. [306324]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* The Home Office and the Department for Children, Schools, and Families jointly chair the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS). One of the recommendations of the Byron Review was that a "one stop shop" for internet safety information for children should be created. UKCCIS has agreed that the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) should act as this one stop shop, building on the success of its "Think U Know" website.

The "Think U Know" website provides practical safety information for children in relevant and easy-to-understand ways, with different sections for different age groups. This information will help children to understand the internet, the risks that they might face, and how to protect themselves. The site also provides a direct link to CEOP for children who feel threatened online to report the threat through CEOP's "Report Abuse" button.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to educate parents on best practices on the internet in order to protect their children. [306325]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* The Government created the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) in 2006 to help protect children online. As part of their remit, CEOP provide safety information to parents, carers and teachers.

This is set out in the "Think U Know" website, which provides practical safety information for adults to allow them to keep children safe online. This information will help adults to keep themselves safe, and to help children to understand the internet, the risks that they might face, and how to protect themselves. The site also provides a direct link to CEOP for children who feel threatened online to report the threat through CEOP's "Report Abuse" button.

When we created CEOP, we recognised the need to develop a law enforcement capability to fight the sexual abuse of children in the online environment, and to provide a national body to act as the national centre for this crime.

Since its inception, CEOP has been a remarkable success. It has rescued over 300 children, and has led to the arrest of a significant number of people seeking to harm children. It has also developed the leading UK child internet safety website, "Think U Know", which provides practical safety information for adults to allow them to keep children safe online. This information will help adults to keep themselves safe, and to help children to understand the internet, the risks that they might face, and how to protect themselves.

With this record of success, I believe that the time is right to give CEOP a legal identity of its own. I am therefore announcing today that we will strengthen CEOP's role in protecting children by granting it NDPB status. This will allow CEOP to respond quickly and effectively to emerging online threats and to take on additional work relating to the protection of children at a national level.

### Police

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what policy is in force in the Metropolitan Police in respect of facial piercing for police officers; and if he will make a statement. [307255]

**Mr. Hanson:** This is a matter for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

Home Office Circular 54/2003 outlines guidance for recruitment process checks for police officers which includes guidance on piercings. A copy of the circular is available at the following address:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/publications/home-office-circulars/circulars-2003/054-2003/62091?view=Binary

Police recruitment guidance for England and Wales police forces stipulates that candidates with facial piercings may be eligible for appointment. The nature, location, prominence and appearance of any facial piercing needs to be considered against the overall requirements of the role and with due consideration to the health and safety of the officer and members of the public.

It is for force managers to consider whether the acquisition of a facial piercing by a serving officer may constitute a breach of the Code of Professional Standards for police officers or constitute a risk to the health and safety of the officer. Each case is considered on its merits by the police force concerned.

### Police: Pay

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials were eligible for performance bonuses and special bonuses in the Independent Police Complaints Commission by civil service band in each of the last three years; how many people received each type of bonus; what the average payment was for each type of bonus; and what the maximum payment was for each type of bonus. [306100]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Home Office does not hold this information. These are matters for the IPCC and they will write directly to the hon. Member.

### Repatriation

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what countries foreign nationals subject to the Facilitated Returns Scheme have been repatriated. [303325]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UK Border Agency does not publish a breakdown by nationality of foreign nationals removed under the Facilitated Returns Scheme.

The Home Office publishes information on the individuals removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

### Work Permits

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which academic qualifications qualify work visa applicants for additional points under the points-based system. [305248]

**Mr. Woolas:** The points based system consolidates approximately 80 immigration routes into a five tier system.

Academic qualifications score points only in certain categories of tiers one and two. The points value of the relevant academic qualifications are available at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/pbs/tier1poststudyworkguidance1.pdf

| *Qualification* | *Points* |
|---|---|
| *Qualification Attributes for tier one (general) migrants:* | |
| Bachelor's degree | 30 |
| Master's degree | 35 |
| PhD | 50 |
| | |
| *Attributes for tier one (post-study work) migrants:* | |
| The applicant has been awarded: (mandatory) | |
| (a) a UK recognised bachelor or postgraduate degree, or | |
| (b) a UK postgraduate certificate in education or Professional Graduate Diploma of Education, or | |
| (c) a Higher National Diploma ('HND') from a Scottish institution. | 20 |
| | |
| (a) The applicant studied for his award at a UK institution that is a UK recognised or listed body, or which holds a sponsor licence under tier four of the points based system, or | |
| (b) If the applicant is claiming points for having been awarded a Higher National Diploma from a Scottish Institution, he studied for that diploma at a Scottish publicly funded institution of further or higher education, or a Scottish bona fide private education institution which maintains satisfactory records of enrolment and attendance | 20 |
| | |
| The applicant's periods of UK study and/or research towards his eligible award were undertaken whilst he had entry clearance, leave to enter or leave to remain in the UK that was not subject to a restriction preventing him from undertaking a course of study and/or research. | 20 |
| The applicant made the application for entry clearance or leave to remain as a tier one (post-study work) migrant within 12 months of obtaining the relevant qualification. | 15 |
| The applicant is applying for leave to remain and has, or was last granted, leave as a participant in the International Graduates Scheme (or its predecessor, the Science and Engineering Graduates Scheme) or as a participant in the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme. | 75 |
| | |
| *Qualification attributes for tier two (general) migrants and tier two (intra-company transfer) migrants:* | |
| PhD or above | 15 |
| Master's or Bachelor's degree or above | 10 |
| GCE A-level or equivalent or above | 5 |
| None, or below GCE A-level | 0 |

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to respond to Question 304490, on visa requirements, tabled on 1 December 2009. [307610]

**Mr. Woolas:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1111W.

# Ministerial Correction

*Tuesday 15 December 2009*

## JUSTICE

### Driving Under Influence

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers convicted of driving in each police authority when under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the East of England in each year since 1999 had previous convictions for the same offence. [295947]

*[Official Report, 3 November 2009, Vol. 498, c. 899-900W.]*

*Letter of correction from Maria Eagle:*

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 3 November 2009.

The correct answer should have been:

**Maria Eagle:** The figures requested are shown in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer (PNC), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

*Number of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs¹ in the East of England (2000-08) with a previous conviction for the same offence*

| *Force* | *Number of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs* | *Number of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence* | *Percentage of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2000* | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 762 | 159 | 20.87 |
| Cambridgeshire | 766 | 117 | 15.27 |
| Essex | 2,387 | 371 | 15.54 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,517 | 252 | 16.61 |
| Norfolk | 1,074 | 154 | 14.34 |
| Suffolk | 863 | 112 | 12.98 |
| *2001* | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 883 | 181 | 20.50 |
| Cambridgeshire | 822 | 148 | 18.00 |
| Essex | 2,377 | 409 | 17.21 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,647 | 281 | 17.06 |
| Norfolk | 1,118 | 183 | 16.37 |
| Suffolk | 916 | 145 | 15.83 |
| *2002* | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 932 | 220 | 23.61 |
| Cambridgeshire | 871 | 167 | 19.17 |
| Essex | 2,468 | 470 | 19.04 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,902 | 345 | 18.14 |
| Norfolk | 1,230 | 214 | 17.40 |
| Suffolk | 1,080 | 203 | 18.80 |
| *2003* | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 1,058 | 261 | 24.67 |
| Cambridgeshire | 957 | 213 | 22.26 |
| Essex | 2,567 | 582 | 22.67 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,855 | 388 | 20.92 |
| Norfolk | 1,237 | 270 | 21.83 |
| Suffolk | 1,193 | 236 | 19.78 |
| *2004* | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 1,051 | 233 | 22.17 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,113 | 221 | 19.86 |
| Essex | 2,733 | 626 | 22.91 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,830 | 386 | 21.09 |
| Norfolk | 1,215 | 248 | 20.41 |
| Suffolk | 1,243 | 245 | 19.71 |
| *2005* | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 1,033 | 250 | 24.20 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,295 | 272 | 21.00 |
| Essex | 2,523 | 609 | 24.14 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,837 | 419 | 22.81 |
| Norfolk | 1,233 | 270 | 21.90 |
| Suffolk | 1,053 | 240 | 22.79 |
| *2006* | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 1,090 | 264 | 24.22 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,286 | 272 | 21.15 |
| Essex | 2,863 | 603 | 21.06 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,887 | 449 | 23.79 |
| Norfolk | 1,310 | 290 | 22.02 |
| Suffolk | 1,098 | 243 | 22.13 |
| *2007* | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 1,023 | 271 | 26.49 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,231 | 274 | 22.26 |
| Essex | 2,521 | 591 | 23.44 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,892 | 426 | 22.52 |
| Norfolk | 1,349 | [illegible] | 24.74 |
| Suffolk | 1,000 | 203 | 20.30 |
| *2008* | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 879 | 233 | 26.51 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,064 | 259 | 24.34 |
| Essex | 2,382 | 583 | 24.48 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,665 | 407 | 24.44 |
| Norfolk | 1,061 | 257 | 24.22 |
| Suffolk | 884 | 220 | 24.89 |

¹ The data includes a range of offences under the Road Traffic Act. They can be found in sections 4(1), 5(1)(a), 7(6), 4(2), 5(1)(b), 6(4) and 7A as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 and the Transport and Works Act 2002.

# Ministerial Correction

*Wednesday 16 December 2009*

## DEFENCE

### Military Aircraft: Training

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training hours flying time RAF fast jet pilots were able to undertake on average in each year since 2004. [258077]

*[Official Report, 7 July 2009, Vol. 495, c. 661-62W.]*

*Letter of correction from Bill Rammell:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 7 July 2009. The figures provided in the substantive reply relating to average front line pilot training hours were incorrect. The correct information relating to the average front line pilot training hours for fast jet aircraft should have been:

| | *Average actual front line pilot training flying hours* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Fast jet aircraft type* | *FY 2005-06* | *FY 2006-07* |
| Jaguar | 225 | 197 |
| Tornado F3 | 204 | 220 |
| Tornado GR4 | 194 | 195 |
| Harrier | 165 | 148 |
| Typhoon | 145 | 185 |
| Total hours | 933 | 945 |

From the information provided above the average of actual fast jet pilot training flying hours is 187 for FY 2005-06 and 189 for FY 2006-07.

Changes to the flying hours reporting system mentioned above, also means that monthly data for the period January to March 2008 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.